A permanent space that provides a stable base for youth experiencing houselessness in Washington County to access services, resources, and housing.
Our Mission

HomePlate supports the positive development of young people experiencing homelessness or housing instability through community building, education, access to services and resources, and youth empowerment.

Our Vision

HomePlate envisions communities where youth are supported in their communities and homelessness is a short-term circumstance, not a long term or chronic condition.
HomePlate was founded in Hillsboro to address the growing needs of young people experiencing houselessness in Washington County through the grassroots efforts of concerned community members and the current Executive Director, Bridget Calfee.

Our Outreach team fans out across different areas of Washington County, providing youth with essentials like snacks, hygiene supplies, and clothing, to name a few.

For years the team worked out of donated shared spaces to provide youth with a hot meal, shower, laundry facilities, and a safe place to find support. Our employment program grew out of youth requests for support with skill-building and job experience. As programs grew to include employment and extended support services, it became clear we needed a more centralized location.

In 2016 we began to rent a space in downtown Beaverton, which has helped to provide more stability for our youth and staff. However, the configuration and size of the space has limited our ability to grow our services and reach more youth.

The time has come to create a permanent home for HomePlate.

HomePlate has grown into a dynamic and well-respected leader in youth services in Washington County. We partner with many other organizations, companies, and volunteers to provide a place where young people feel they belong and are part of a caring community.

Our team, board of directors, and volunteers are committed to meeting youth (ages 12-24) where they are and helping them to find the resources and services they need to find stability.
HomePlate uses a framework of positive youth development called “The Circle of Courage.”

Each Circle of Courage quadrant stands for a central value (belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity) of an environment that can claim and reclaim all youth. The circle of courage centers on the concept that relationships and a sense of belonging are foundational to a young person’s ability to develop mastery and work towards independence.

The HomePlate relational model acknowledges a youth’s need for that essential component of belonging by providing a multitude of opportunities for youth to connect with supportive adults who see them as unique and worthy individuals.

Adapted from Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future by Larry K. Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg, Steve Van Brockern
HomePlate offers disruptions to cycles of instability.

Working with youth offers the opportunity to change the narrative by investing in their futures instead of allowing resources to go untapped.

If young people experiencing houselessness can’t access a safe place to learn about resources when they are in crisis, they are less likely to access needed resources, further exacerbating their crisis.

When crisis and instability persists, it comes as a cost to all: interruption to schooling, time spent in the criminal justice system, and economic stress on the community.

Top 3 school districts of houseless youth in Oregon:

Beaverton School District: 1,871
Medford School District: 1,207
Salem-Keizer School District: 1,117

2,754 houseless students in Washington County

457 of those students are unaccompanied youth
Our History

2005  Volunteers begin hosting the first weekly drop-ins

2007  HomePlate establishes nonprofit status

2011  Second Drop-in Center begins in Hillsboro

2012  Third Drop-in Center begins in Beaverton

2013  Youth Employment Program begins with Sit-n-Stay

2016  New headquarters and Drop-in Center in Beaverton

2019  HomePlate starts offering furthering education scholarships.

2021  Launch public phase of capital campaign
Reclaiming Stability

Key Insights

With the Circle of Courage™ model as our guiding framework, we learned through youth interviews how they felt they had grown as a result of their time with us.

1. Youth on working closely with staff and volunteers: “They’re role models — they’re showing you how to progress in life and that you don’t have to fit into the mold of your family. There are so many other options to have a life.”

2. Accessing basic resources is a must for youth before any personal growth can be achieved.

3. There is power in allowing room for deep listening to understand what resources our youth need, especially their needs that may not be verbalized or asked for.

4. Youth speaking on sense of belonging at HomePlate: “At HomePlate, I felt super safe. I had food, warmth, and it was good to be there working on my school stuff.”

5. Youth experience a sense of personal growth and self-confidence through our youth employment program.

6. It’s all relative. We have come to understand that our youth may be at a point in their life of stability that impacts how and when they access support and resources.

7. Youth believe in a future for themselves that is different from their past or present.

8. Many of our youth still struggle to find stable housing. A majority of the housing programs and assistance are only available to adults over age 18.

9. “No is a full sentence.”
Before HomePlate’s employment program, I didn’t think I was smart enough to go to college. Now I feel I can get a college degree.

HomePlate partnered with the Beaverton Downtown Association, who provided a work opportunity for two HomePlate Youth to make planter boxes to beautify the 1st Street Dining Commons.
Experiencing Housing Instability

• At risk of becoming homeless with or without the support of family
• Staying with family/friends long-term, limited or no long-term stability plan

What does houselessness look like?

HomePlate serves Youth ages 12-24 who are:

Experiencing Homelessness

• Unable to live in a safe environment with a relative and lack safe alternative living arrangements

• Couch surfing, camping, sleeping in cars, home over-crowding

Experiencing Housing Instability

• At risk of becoming homeless with or without the support of family

It’s time to meet youth where they are.
We provide the first step toward stability

The youth served at HomePlate face significant barriers to securing housing, which is a key factor in obtaining and maintaining employment.

Untreated health care needs, the lack of childcare or transportation to a job site, no previous formal job training or rental history, and lack of financial resources to help alleviate application fees or security deposit requirements play a large role in finding stability.

Our society has created high hurdles for an already marginalized group of young people. Sadly, the stigmas and discrimination they face widen the disconnect from accessing resources when timing can be most impactful.

HomePlate provides trusting relationships, resources, and information that unhoused youth might not be able to access or find.

We integrate innovative and creative approaches that successfully engage youth on a pathway toward stable housing.

Through our surveys and consistent work with youth in Washington County over the past 16 years, we have listened and responded to youth needs so they can take steps towards independence and stability.

Through outreach and connection, HomePlate provides the first step toward stability.
Why Now?

- HomePlate’s services are needed now more than ever. Beaverton has had the highest number of students experiencing homelessness in the state of Oregon for the 6th year in a row.

- Due to this pandemic and other resources being closed, HomePlate has served as a lifeline for youth experiencing homelessness, connecting them to basic resources, as well as supportive adults.

- After the recession, unhoused youth in Oregon grew 75% from 2007-2017. We can anticipate a need for our services during and post-Covid.

- We are currently serving youth on the back patio with a to-go model. The new building would provide much needed additional space to triple our capacity.

Home4HomePlate
Capital Campaign | Phase 1

Expenses

- $1,797,500 Construction
- $342,645 Design, fees, permits
- $834,703 Acquisition
- $75,000 Contingency
- $400,000 Program Expansion
- $100,000 Furnishings & Fixtures
Why HomePlate?

We have the track record, tools, people, and the opportunity.

We are ready to take a leap.

• HomePlate is the only drop-in and street outreach organization for youth in Washington County.

• HomePlate has a track record of success over the last sixteen years. We have the data to show that our approach works. Our staff and board have built a sophisticated infrastructure that allows us to sustainably grow and support our programming. We built capacity in program evaluation, fundraising, finance, and staff supervision.

• Our staff are experts in the field. We rigorously train our staff in strengths-based, youth-centered best practices.

• HomePlate has been recognized as one of Oregon’s 100 Best Non-Profits to Work for, and named one of Oregon Business’s 100 Best Green Workplaces.

• Our approach led by the Circle of Courage Framework™ fosters generosity that we model within HomePlate. One of our recently hired employees previously used HomePlate services as a youth and has dedicated her career to giving back.

• It’s a good investment. Currently HomePlate pays $25,000 annually to occupy our drop-in center spaces. By purchasing a building, we switch to becoming owners investing in our future and building net worth to expand programs.
For Krishelle, it all started with a bowl of spaghetti. She was with one of the first groups of youth HomePlate served in 2005.

Going in and out of foster care for most of her childhood, she found herself with a tendency towards trouble. Krishelle describes her life between 16-19 as a “trapped adult.” Abandoned by the foster care system, she struggled to gain traction above and beyond just maintaining a job.

Then came Bridget Calfee, HomePlate’s current executive director who started the organization as its first staff member doing street outreach. She approached Krishelle and her friends on the street and invited them for Thursday night spaghetti. No strings attached or ulterior motive. Just an introduction and invitation to HomePlate’s drop-in resource center.

Krishelle continued going back weekly, “mostly because there were people there that genuinely cared about who I was.”

Krishelle, more than anyone, understands how consequential youth disconnect can be, but she remembers how different HomePlate was.

Fast forward 15 years later, and Krishelle has healed relationships with family and is surrounded by love, becoming a mother herself. She is proof that wholeness can happen. Restoration can happen. Reunification can happen.

We are so proud to have Krishelle on our team doing outreach in western Washington County, representing what we strive for in all our youth: stability.

HomePlate sees youth. They knew my name and cared about me, what my future could look like, with just a simple ‘Hey, how’s it going?’
$400,000
to expand our programs

Room to Grow

With our new space, we’ll be able to offer our youth dedicated space for computer lab, quiet space, community space, gardening, and so much more.

- This triples the number of youth who now have a safe, warm drop-in center to meet with supportive adults
- Low barrier service model and conveniently located 1 mile from MAX station
- Walking distance from Beaverton High School, the library, city park and many other service providers
- Trauma-informed spaces, modeling supportive relationships with healthy boundaries
- Exclusively dedicated space for our Youth Employment Center and HomePlate Opportunity Program
- Ability to invite agencies to use the new conference room as a gathering space, knowing there are limited non-religiously affiliated gathering spaces in Beaverton
Meeting Youth Where They Are

We need to raise $3,549,848 by November 2021 to fully renovate our new property in downtown Beaverton that expands programming and triples our capacity.

Washington County’s influx of funds for supportive housing services has created a unique opportunity for HomePlate to be a crucial partner at the table in solving issues around houselessness.

The need to raise capital funds is made even more urgent because of our public partnerships prioritizing youth services and the heightened need among youth experiencing houselessness.

Every gift makes a difference.

We invite all to join us in this major investment in youth, HomePlate, and Washington County.

Ready to invest in reclaiming stability?

Contact Marie Piayai, Director of Development & Communications, marie@homeplateyouth.org 971-322-9381
Outreach. Education. Employment. Housing.

Ways to Give

HomePlate is committed to meeting youth where they are and supporting them in finding what stability means to them.

Become a monthly donor to help commemorate this anniversary milestone!

Make your gift now at homeplateyouth.org/home4homeplate

Contact Marie Piayai, Director of Development & Communications to learn more and to explore other giving opportunities.

971-322-9381 | marie@homeplateyouth.org