



Get Involved

DONATE TO SECOND HOME

Financial donations help Second Home serve our community. The average cost of housing a student is \$2,500 to \$3,000 per year. Donations also support our capacity to expand our impact as we reach more communities. In-kind donations are also greatly appreciated, including silent auction items and corporate food donations for our annual fundraising event.

VOLUNTEER AS A HOME PROVIDER

Home providers provide short-term or long-term housing for a Second Home student. Background checks and application are required.

JOIN OUR STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

Volunteers can support a Second Home student by giving holiday and birthday cards, attending their school events, tutoring and more. A background check may be required.

BECOME A COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

Join us in raising awareness around the issue of youth homelessness in our communities, speak to your organization or congregation, assist staff with fundraising events, or coordinate volunteers working together to support our youth!

Contact Us



Learn more at emo-secondhome.org

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Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of faith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through direct service programs, education and dialogue, creation justice, and public policy advocacy.

SECOND HOME



Together we are bringing out the best in each other

A program of
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

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What we do

Second Home matches volunteer host homes with unaccompanied high school students experiencing homelessness. By ensuring that the students have stable housing and ongoing support, they can focus on completing their secondary education and realize their full potential.

Second Home serves students in the school districts of Washington, Clackamas, East Multnomah and Lincoln Counties.

Our program is a ground-breaking example of how a community can respond to the issue of youth homelessness. Through recruiting volunteer home providers, we are able to support those who want to finish their high school education. Second Home also provides ongoing opportunities to pursue internships and employment, counseling, and life skills training.

HOW SECOND HOME WORKS

Students and home-providers are matched up to form a home-sharing relationship. Home-providers offer room and board to the student while they attend high school. All home-share arrangements are governed by rental agreements and house rules that the families and students negotiate together, with the help of the Second Home staff and a volunteer mediator from the Dispute Resolution Center. Support for the participants comes from both the Second Home staff and from the community.



Home Providers

WHERE DO STUDENTS COME FROM?

Full-time students can be referred to the program by their school counselor or by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons of the School District.

WHAT AM I EXPECTED TO DO FOR A STUDENT? You will give the student room and board for the school year (and possibly the summer depending on your agreement). You are not expected to become a foster parent, but should a mentoring relationship develop, that is absolutely fine.

HOW WILL I PAY FOR FOOD? You may be expected to provide food for the student while they live with you. Some students have SNAP benefits to cover their food needs.

DOES THE STUDENT PAY RENT? No. Rental agreements are written to establish participation in normal household chores as payment in lieu of rent.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO BE MATCHED WITH A STUDENT? The waiting time to find a match is highly variable and depends on the students who are entering the program, their needs and your needs. Since you both must agree that you want to live together, it is as much your decision to live with a student as it is their decision to live with you.



Students

WHO CAN JOIN SECOND HOME?

Any Washington County, Gresham-Barlow, Lincoln County or Clackamas school district student who is attending high school or the equivalent with the intent to graduate and who is 16 years old or older.

DOES THE HOUSING COST ANYTHING? No. The home-providers sign up to give you housing and food, although you may want to buy your own food if your tastes are different from theirs!

WHY DO THEY SIGN UP TO BE HOME-PROVIDERS? For the most part, the people who sign up just really want to help kids graduate from high school. They feel like this is a way they can help make someone's life better, and they want to help.

WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE THEM AFTER I MOVE IN? Everyone is involved in a mediation process to make an agreement before moving in, so you will have time to get to know the home provider before you make a decision about whether or not you want to live there. You also have a say in the house rules, so if you feel like something isn't going to work for you, you have an opportunity to negotiate a different rule. If there are problems once you are in the home, our staff is available to help you work through the issue or to find another place to live.

Last school year, Second Home assisted 50 students; 4,097 nights of housing and 11,291 meals were provided.