



New Home in the U District for Formerly Foster Youth:

The Y and University Congregational Housing Alliance Join Forces

The Y and the University Congregational Housing Alliance are pleased to announce the creation of a new home to serve youth aging out of the foster care system, which will be located in the heart of the University District.

The new UCHA home will add to our community's capacity to house and serve youth and allow them to mature into adulthood with the stability of a home, caring adult support and training in life skills such as managing a budget, paying rent, and holding a job.

The new home will be located near North Seattle Community College, providing proximity to young adults attending school there. It will be owned by UCHA and operated by the YMCA. Inspired by and based on the Y's Transitions model, the home will house five youth who are participants in YMCA Young Adult Services and be staffed by a live-in resident manager who is a staff member of the YMCA.

University Congregational Church is a thriving, 1000-member congregation located in the heart of the University District and has for many years provided support and volunteers to Teen Feed, ROOTS and other organizations serving homeless youth in the neighborhood.

In recent years, its members have learned that many of these youth are alumni of the foster care system, which often has little to offer once a foster youth turns 18. At UCHA's 2009 annual retreat, its Board decided to develop a new project. (One of the Board members is a foster parent and aware of the plight of many foster youth as they age out of care. She suggested investigating the availability of housing and other transitional services for these youth.) The group learned of the great need for supportive housing and of the YMCA's shared home model. UCHA approached the YMCA to be a partner in creating another such home.

The University Congregational Housing Association (UCHA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation formed in 1983 as a mission outreach for University Congregational United Church of Christ. Its purpose is to provide and assist others in providing housing for socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and families. UCHA has a 25+ year track record as a developer, landlord and property manager. It has also raised funds for and provided volunteer support for Plymouth Healing Communities, Habitat for Humanity, Elizabeth Gregory Home, Home Step and the Church of Mary Magdalene and Mary's Place.