



**SECOND HOME**  
— A Program of EMOregon

## **Second Home, a community effort to address the challenge of local youth homelessness, expands into Portland**

Since 2010, Second Home, a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, a host home program that provides long-term, stable housing for teenagers experiencing homelessness, has served students throughout Washington, Clackamas, Lincoln and East Multnomah counties. This spring, we are excited to announce that we have secured the funding to expand into Portland through a partnership with the City of Portland.

Second Home works with students so that they can pursue their education, graduate from high school and realize their life goals. Upon expansion to Portland, Second Home staff will operate consistently with their current mission, supporting local students ages 16 to 21 and recruiting volunteer home providers to provide the needed housing.

Per the Second Home model, local school districts refer and recommend students for the program. Students and hosts interview one another and decide if they are a good fit for each other. Trained mediators help students and hosts create rental and house rules contracts to ensure expectations are discussed and guidelines established. As volunteers, home providers are not financially compensated, but through the new Portland partnership, the hope is that hosts may be able to apply for the City's one-time home share stipend of \$1,000. The host home model has proven successful across the country in addressing youth homelessness at the community level.

Second Home sees a 90-100 percent graduation rate each year, and few youth who go through the program return to homelessness as adults. The Second Home partnership with the City of Portland is just the beginning of what could be a viable option for many youth experiencing homelessness and attending the Portland Public Schools. McKenny-Vento liaisons in Portland Public Schools reported to Second Home staff that, as of mid-March, there are over 900 students who qualify for McKenny-Vento Services, and 135 of them are unaccompanied. McKenny-Vento Liaisons are the federally mandated position in every school district that works with students experiencing housing insecurity.

If you are interested in learning more about Second Home or becoming a home provider, please call (503) 221-1054, ext. 277, or email [secondhome@emoregon.org](mailto:secondhome@emoregon.org).