

Statement in Support by Volunteer Home Provider Who Hosted a Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Dear Second Home Team,

Ella came to my home the beginning of December 2019. At that time, this was to be a Second Home Placement until the end of August. Within a month or so, I knew my commitment to Ella would be lifelong and one based on a family relationship vs a placement relationship.

Ella has very much become a part of my family. It has been such an honor to watch her grow and gain confidence these past six months. I am excited that Ella's plan for herself includes a college education. She will be attending PCC and has been selected for the Future Connect Program. Her plan after PCC is to attend Western Oregon.

Our Second Home Placement Agreement officially ends the end of August. However, Ella and I both know this [formal] agreement ended long ago. She will be living with me for as long as she needs to and I will love and support her as a family member.

I am so grateful the Second Home Program was there for (Ella). It breaks my heart to imagine how this year and her future would have gone had she not had the support of this program and the option to continue her schooling without the fear of housing instability. I am incredibly grateful that I was guided to the Second Home Program at just the right time to be the home that Ella needed.

Thank you for all that you do. This work truly matters and is making a difference in the lives of teens and those lucky enough to be their Second Home.

Note: Student Name changed to Ella