

The YWCA's Youth Services prepare children to thrive in today's multicultural world through innovative camp and educational programs.

LearnLinks helps economically disadvantaged children with tutoring, mentoring, and family support. At **Camp Westwind**, youth gain valuable independence and leadership skills.

All programs have the underlying goals of:

- Creating a fun and safe environment for youth to learn and explore;
- Enhancing emotional and social well-being and establishing a sense of responsibility;
- Building a community that encourages awareness of self as well as others; and
- Creating intentional programming which teaches children to embrace diversity.

camp westwind

Camp Westwind is a traditional, co-ed, residential camp in an inspiring setting near Lincoln City, Oregon.

At Camp Westwind, children and teens receive mentorship, gain a global perspective, and build the leadership skills to make a difference as they develop into young adults.

Primarily serving youth in grades 1–12, Camp Westwind also offers family camp opportunities including programs specifically for the LGBTQ community.

camp westwind in the city

Camp Westwind in the City is an urban day camp based in downtown Portland. It serves youth 5–14 years of age and offers volunteer opportunities for those aged 16–18.

Camp Westwind in the City is designed to teach kids about the community they live in and the outdoor activities right in their back yards. Activities also emphasize exposure to local arts and culture.



“It was such a turning point and confidence-builder for me.”

— Indigo (with Cybelle, 10, and Delilah, 7),
on being a counsellor at the YWCA's Camp Westwind

Indigo's Story

Indigo came to be a counselor at the YWCA's Camp Westwind after she graduated from college.

She loved being in “a place where community is consciously built, a safe place where everyone respects people's differences, where people accept you for who you are and that you can be who you are.”

Seventeen years of volunteering later, Indigo's daughters are now YWCA campers too, bringing it full circle. “There are staff at camp who were campers when I was on staff and to them, I'm a person they looked up to and wanted to be like – like the rock star! Now, they're the rock stars to my kids. The cycle is so amazing.”



Caitlyn & Ann's story

When Caitlyn was ten years old the YWCA's LearnLinks helped her with homework, and through the program she was matched with Ann to receive additional mentoring.

Now seventeen years old, Caitlyn says, "The choices I have made and the opportunities I have been presented because of Ann are priceless."

Talking about her dreams for the future, Caitlyn says, "I plan to go to college, hopefully with a full scholarship. I'm not sure what field of study I will pursue, but I'm interested in science and economics.

"All my childhood, I've been dependent on the government – but with the help of LearnLinks and the opportunities Ann has given me, I'll be able to be independent."

learnlinks

LearnLinks is an after school homework and mentoring program in the Greater Portland area serving grades K–12. It helps economically disadvantaged children living in four select low-income housing locations by providing personalized tutoring, mentoring, and family support.

LearnLinks proceeds from the belief that education is key to ending the cycle of poverty. Its goals and values are:

- To improve the academic performance of low-income children by providing supplementary educational resources;
- To provide a caring community committed to learning and promoting positive self-image.
- To recognize the talents and gifts of every community member.
- To encourage youth and help them establish their sense of responsibility.
- To advocate closer child/teacher/parent relationships.
- To help youth meet their full potential in a safe environment.

LearnLinks achieves these goals by providing these community-based activities:

- Homework clubs
- Therapeutic art groups
- Community field trips
- Family night events

The YWCA of Greater Portland provides life-changing social services for women, children and families from all walks and phases of life, guiding them through three stages of empowerment: Safety, Opportunity, and Independence.

Our comprehensive programs create positive impact in the community by encompassing four key service areas. In addition to Youth Services, we provide Domestic Violence Services, Transitional Services, and Senior Services.

