

Alcohol & Drug Treatment Services

NWFS provides youth in local schools alcohol & drug treatment services. These youth are physically able to receive services at school and then return to their classes.

Featured Employee: Desiree Stang

Meet All-Star Alcohol and Drug Treatment Counselor, Desiree Stang. As a 4th generation Oregonian, she is passionate about the community in which she lives and works. Desiree has spent the majority of her professional life in the non-profit sector, and she is fully committed to bringing changes to the many needs people face throughout the Portland Metro area.

Desiree was motivated to join the ranks of counseling following her experiences growing up within the Oregon Foster care system, and for her love of children. "I had one counselor growing up that really connected with me who introduced me to play therapy, and since then I wanted to be like her."

Professionally, Desiree Stang is a Alcohol and Drug Counselor with Northwest Family Services. She also leads Building Resiliency, a private counseling practice in Gresham. Building Resiliency offers a safe place for children and adolescents who have been through trauma or mental health challenges. The practice provides play therapy, which is an interactive form of communication using things such as toys for youth to express their words. Her education includes the following: Masters in Counseling (MA) from Multnomah University, certified alcohol and drug counselor (CADC I), and a certified clinical trauma professional (CCTP).

Personally, Desiree enjoys good food, dancing, rides horses, and time with her dog, Kovu, and her pet pig, Wilbur. She is a proud homeowner and represents the highest education level within her family.



Desiree Stang and Brisa Servin (pictured right to left) present to a crowd of over 100 discussing youth alcohol and drug treatment services in Portland.

Brisa's Story

I'm 15 years old, a freshman, and live in Gresham, OR. My story started when I got into trouble for bringing marijuana to school and was referred to NWFS' Peer Court by my Vice Principal. Peer Court gave me a chance to not have a record.

Before Peer Court, I was always getting into trouble and did not care about school. Things at home were difficult, too. My NWFS Drug and Alcohol Counselor, Desiree Stang, taught me how drugs and alcohol affect the teenage brain. I participated in Family Empowerment, a class where families go together to learn to communicate and understand each other better. This class helped my Dad better understand where teenagers are coming from and taught me to be open with my family. In addition, I learned new coping skills, especially when I get mad or sad.

Northwest Family services has helped me reflect on who I want to be. I am now clean and sober for a little over a year, doing well in school, maintaining my grades, and have become involved in sports at my school. I am very proud of all my accomplishments and this is just the beginning. Thank you Northwest Family Services!