

# Lend Your Voice – An Opportunity to Shine in Pierce County

**Amara** is a not-for-profit organization based in Washington state focused on the wellbeing of children and families who experience foster care. Amara is a historically white-led organization, committed to grounding their work in racial equity. [amaraputskidsfirst.org](http://amaraputskidsfirst.org)

## An Opportunity to Shine in Pierce County

In 2018, Amara purchased a 29-acre property in Pierce County seeing it as a key moment to develop needed resources and support for children and families impacted by the foster system. Knowing that it takes a community for children and families to thrive, Amara is extending their arms wide to bring together the people and resources needed to build out this opportunity for Pierce County.

## Amara's Pierce County Property

The 29-acre property has a rural character and includes wetlands and wooded areas. It is located at 3501 104th St. East in Summit-Waller, an unincorporated community in Pierce County that roughly sits between Tacoma and Puyallup. The closest bus service is Pierce Transit Route 4, which requires a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mi walk. The property includes Amara's Pierce County office, along with older, unused buildings, animal pastures and garden plots. Any new buildings will require time and money for construction and must meet Pierce County zoning regulations, which limit the type of development and number of housing units.



## Amara's Vision for the Property

Amara strongly believes that the vision for this property should be owned by the children most impacted by the foster system.

- Every young person that steps onto the property should feel **welcome and safe**.
- The property should **celebrate the diversity** of ethnicities, cultures and languages in Pierce County, and every young person should see a part of themselves reflected here.
- The **spirit and joy of childhood** should be infused in every acre, reminding us what a family can do for a child and what a child can do for a community.
- The property should provide **holistic services and activities** that heal the mind, body and spirit.
- The property should be a **center of strength** for Pierce County children and families.



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## An Invitation to the Community

Amara is inviting community members to share ideas for how the Pierce County property could be developed and what services and activities could be offered to have the greatest impact on the wellbeing of children and families impacted by the foster care system.

## Leading with Racial Equity

While we welcome everyone's ideas in this effort, we invite people of color, who are disproportionately impacted by the foster care system, to lead the conversation.

## How Can I Lend My Voice

- **An online survey** for everyone to lend their voice
- **Interviews** to hear the ideas of youth, parents and service providers
- **Listening sessions** to build dialog and creative ideas among community groups
- **House meetings** hosted by local community organizers to spark ideas and energy
- **Email or call** us at the contact info below

## The Community Leadership Team

The Community Leadership Team is a group of youth, community members and professionals. They will play the important role of weaving together the community ideas we receive to share back to the community in the Fall and then develop a recommendation to Amara's board of directors, who will ultimately decide next steps and lead fundraising and implementation.

## A Fall Event to Summarize What We've Heard

Nov 9th 12-3pm at Amara 3501 104th St. East, Tacoma, WA 98446 – A free meal, music, live art, spoken word, activities for kids, local vendors

## Community Engagement Team

Amara is partnering with our team of four facilitators. We are community members and small business owners. Our work is personal and professional. It is grounded in anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion.

- **Jennifer Arnold**, Reciprocity Consulting, LLC
- **Adriane Wilson**, Truth Teller Consulting
- **Julia Kagochi**, Kagochi Consulting
- **Rodney Robinson**, Outside Perspective, LLC



SUMMARIZE WHAT WE'VE HEARD  
November 9th @ Amara

RECOMMENDATION  
TO AMARA'S BOARD

GET INVOLVED  
Take the survey now!



<https://bit.ly/2YcoYir>



We welcome your feedback lendyourvoice.amara.pierce@gmail.com 253-651-4991