



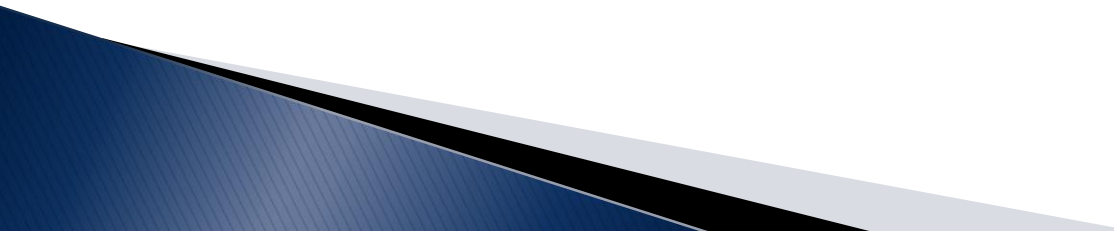
YOUTH HAVEN

Our Vision

To support youth experiencing homelessness by providing safe shelter, programs and services, in an atmosphere of respect and dignity.

Our Mission

Together, we are helping homeless youth become successful adults.



We work with youths experiencing homelessness, and at risk of becoming homeless, gain a firm foundation upon which to build better lives.

Youth Haven

1 in 3 people using emergency shelter services in Simcoe County **are youth.**

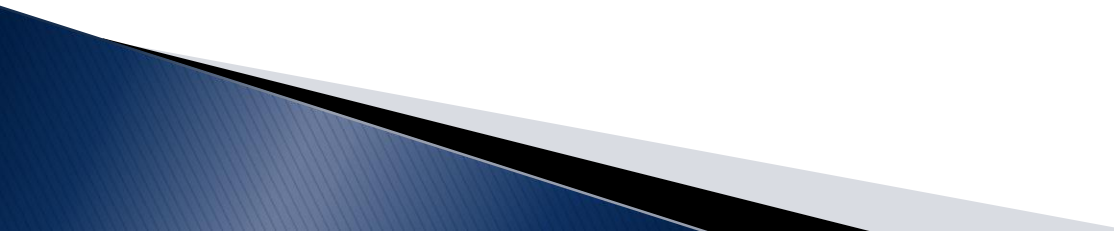


YOUTH HAVEN

- ▶ **MYTH:** They want to be homeless.
FACT: Less than six per cent are homeless by choice.

Homeless youth are often fleeing unsafe situations. Almost 80 percent of homeless youth reported leaving home because of family conflict, addictions, and abuse.

YOUTH HAVEN

- ▶ Youth Haven offers 24-hour intake, 7 days a week, for approx. 21 youth aged 16–24.
 - ▶ Youth Haven provides food, shelter, programs and care packages for approximately 400+ youth each year.
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The Services We Provide

Emergency Care Housing

- ▶ The first thing anyone facing homelessness needs is housing. Our emergency housing is for youth between 16 and 24 who are fleeing an unsafe home environment, those who have lost their housing, and young people who have spent time on the streets.
- ▶ Youth Haven's house features 11 beds for those identifying as young men and 6 beds for those identifying as young women.

The Services We Provide

Case Management and Referral Services

- ▶ Our team works with the young people on establishing goals and breaking them down into manageable tasks that can be completed in a relatively short period of time. This is helpful to move them forward and gain the resources they need to get back on their feet, and in to permanent housing. We help them develop good habits to achieve life long success, with goal planning and problem solving.
- ▶ We are proud to work closely with our community partners. We believe that everyone who calls Youth Haven has called the right place, even if we aren't the ones who provide the services. We are in constant contact with our partners and do make referrals and advocate on a youth's behalf.

The Services We Provide

Life Skills

- ▶ Every step along their Youth Haven journey is an opportunity for our youth to learn, grow, and develop confidence. Our life skills are more than a program; they encompass the daily experience of being in our care. Whether cooking meals and washing dishes, doing laundry and cleaning the house, to learning effective communication tools, learning how to manage money and preparing for work or continuing their education. These experiences help foster self-esteem, resilience, and develop habits that will help them through a traumatic time and guide them into successful adulthood.

Continuing Care

- ▶ Life's challenges don't end when one of our kids moves back home, or in to their own place. Living independently doesn't mean automatically becoming an adult, and young people need the opportunity to explore, make mistakes, learn from those mistakes, and mature in a supportive, responsible environment. Ongoing support, mentorship, advocacy and care, all help, that's why it's important to continue offering support to reinforce the progress they have made with us.

The Services We Provide

Counselling

- ▶ We recognize that we may not have all the answers, but working with our youth, we can both determine what it is they truly need and want from life. Our counsellors help them navigate a complex world of emotions and coping tools needed to mature, gain perspective and focus, and find true happiness in life. Our counsellors work with both the kids who are staying at Youth Haven, and those in the community who are at risk of homelessness and/or experiencing conflict and crisis.

Health Care Clinic

- ▶ Volunteer doctors from the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre Family Teaching Unit provide health care to Youth Haven residents.

The Services We Provide

Outreach Services

- ▶ Our outreach services, located throughout the County of Simcoe, allow us to engage with youth experiencing homelessness, or at-risk of becoming homeless, and who may be disconnected from mainstream services and supports. Our outreach workers work to establish supportive relationships, provide counselling, advice and referral services, and when required, help the youth access necessary services and supports that will help them move back in with their families or, in to permanent housing.

The Services We Provide

Housing Program

- ▶ We work with a Housing Specialist to help our youth find and keep permanent housing.

Transitional Housing

- ▶ Making the transition from living in a home or group setting, to living independently can be scary for all of us. In today's world there is tremendous pressure to manage day-to-day living as adults, even when they are still kids. Imagine having to do it at a young age, with limited skills and resources to manage on your own. For some of our youth this is a reality, and the thought of living self-sufficiently can seem overwhelming. Our transitional housing helps our young people in-need develop real life skills in a supportive and caring environment, giving them the tools needed to succeed in their own home. We offer 5 on-site transitional beds to youth who may require extra time and skill development to become successful adults in our community.

The Services We Provide

RentSmart Program

- ▶ We offer a series of life skills workshops including the RENTSMART program. The RentSmart program helps develop the tools and knowledge for youth to be good tenants. Our programs are designed for our youth to help them gain confidence, competence and the ability to handle everyday tasks; but most of all, our programs empower them with the necessary skills to become successful adults.

The Services We Provide

Youth Haven is an Advocate to increase awareness on issues related to attainable/affordable housing.

- ▶ Our staff is available to make presentations to community groups.
- ▶ Youth Haven collects and shares research data and comprehensive service statistics. The data is shared with municipalities served by Youth Haven, in order to ensure that they are informed of the housing issues affecting their residents.

The Services We Provide

Our agency is a member of the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness, the Poverty Reduction Task Group, Situation Tables in the communities we serve, Project Safe Horizon and the HEART Program.

This allows us to have a greater collective voice.

Who uses our Services?


Youth between the ages of 16 – 24

- ▶ In 2018 over 400 at risk youth sought help and support from Youth Haven through our emergency shelter and or outreach offices.

FINALLY...

Every day, at Youth Haven, we see youths who are struggling to survive. Their stories inspire us and push us to work harder. So, we will step up our efforts to support youth experiencing homelessness.

We will look at ways we can improve the direct services we offer, and, we welcome the opportunity to engage with the community about the work we are doing. We are open to listening, to learning, to changing, and growing.



...Together, we **are** helping our homeless youth become successful adults!

Thank you, for sharing our mission to give our youth every possible opportunity for a brighter future.