

## Profiled Non-Profit and Government Organizations Serving Homeless Youth

### **YouthCare Seattle, WA**

Founded in 1974, YouthCare was the first shelter for homeless youth in the Western United States and continues to be a leader in providing services to this vulnerable population. Beginning as a three-bed shelter for runaways, YouthCare has grown and expanded to become a community-based agency with six sites serving the greater Seattle area.

#### Services

##### **Orion Center**

The Orion Center offers a drop-in center, meals, clothing bank, hygiene supplies, case management, health education, shelter referrals and employment training for over 800 youth every year.

##### **Street Outreach**

YouthCare's Street Outreach Team travels by foot or van to provide youth currently living on the streets with food, medical attention, information and connections to community services.

##### **Shelter and Housing**

YouthCare provides emergency, short and long-term housing for over 200 youth every year.

##### **Education**

The Orion School is a Seattle Public Interagency School located at YouthCare's Orion Center. Youth can obtain their high school diploma, GED or simply become reengaged in school.

##### **Employment Training**

YouthCare offers a pre-employment training program through the YWCA's Working Zone and offers employment training through the Youth Barista Training and Education Program.

##### **TREC (Therapy, Recreation, Education, Community)**

An adventure-based therapy program offering activities and community service projects ranging from rock climbing to stream restoration.

YouthCare undertakes regular evaluative measures to determine if organization's goals are aligned with its mission and to determine effectiveness of programs.

## Outside In Portland, OR

Outside In is a social service agency dedicated to serving low-income adults and homeless youth. It began in 1968, and has continually revised services to meet changing client needs. Current programs include a community health clinic, a homeless youth program designed to help homeless youth obtain independent living, and risk education. There is an estimated 2,000 homeless youth in Portland. Outside In takes the approach of meeting youth where they are to provide them with services proven to be successful.

### Services

#### **Day Program**

Day Program provides safety off the streets, food, crisis counseling and activities that build skills to promote alternatives to street life.

#### **Case Managers**

Case Managers work one-on-one with youth to identify strengths and create plans that address health, work, housing and educational needs.

#### **Employment Resource Center**

The Center works with youth to increase work readiness, obtain and retain employment and build a positive work history. An education component helps youth obtain their GED and enter college.

#### **Transitional Housing**

The housing service provides youth with a home as they move toward independent living. Youth must be working on career or educational goals and save 1/3 of their income. 80% of youth who go through the transitional housing program never return to the streets.

#### **Medical Clinic**

Health care needs are provided through a coalition of medical and naturopathic doctors and interns, acupuncturists, and Chinese herbalists all of whom provide cutting edge multi-disciplinary primary care to homeless youth and low-income individuals lacking health insurance. The **Medical Outreach Program** brings medical and health care services directly to the streets. Serving the hardest to reach communities, medical outreach delivers preventative and life-enhancing medical services to individuals that do not typically access primary health care.

#### **Risk Education**

This outreach program provides on-street peer outreach, peer education programs for HIV prevention among youth, theater and art programming, as well as other recreation activities. The Syringe Exchange program works to prevent the spread of HIV and other diseases among adult drug injectors. Participants receive counseling, safer sex information and supplies, free and anonymous HIV testing, free Hepatitis C testing, as well as drug treatment and other referrals. Last year, this program kept nearly 450,000 used syringes off the streets.

#### **Project Erase**

This is an established public service program, operating within the clinic at Outside In, that removes tattoos from people who have experienced gang-involvement or homelessness but who are now interested in going back to school or getting a job and for whom their tattoos are a barrier toward reintegration into society.

#### **Transgender/Identity Resource Center**

This Center is the first such program in the state of Oregon. The program provides peer education, counseling, referrals, street and community-based outreach to youth who may otherwise be disconnected from resources due to their gender, gender-identity, sexual orientation, ethnic background, or economic hardships.

**Virginia Woof Dog Daycare**

This is the first dog daycare center in the country to be used as a job training program. A nationally recognized program, Virginia Woof builds on the Juma Ventures model which provides youth jobs in a variety of settings, and uses these training jobs to provide youth a foundation from which to build assets, gain experience and financial skills and move into jobs in career tracks.

Outside In continually evaluates its programs and services in order to ensure that they are be utilized fully and are meeting the needs of their targeted populations. Eighty percent of youth who go through the organization's transitional housing program never return to the streets. The organization has been honored for its innovative services with our Youth Program receiving from the Oregon Shelter Network the first ever award given to a program. Recently, it also placed 5th out of 68 clinics reviewed nationwide and is a Federally Qualified Medical Center.

## **Homeless Youth - Continuum of Care      Portland OR**

This collaborative effort is overseen by the Department of School and Community Partnerships (DSCP) – Multnomah County

Multnomah County's Homeless Youth Continuum of Care offers services to youth 24 hours/day. Basic goals of the Continuum include: providing screening and referral services to area youth who present for services, and transitioning youth into safe, stable housing with supportive education and employment services. The services are made available to homeless youth between the ages of 13-21.

### Services

24 Hour screening and referral services

Stabilization and orientation services

Runaway Services

Outreach

Family reunification services

Day programs

Medical care

Crisis shelters

Group and independent housing

Case management

Mental health and drug and alcohol counseling

Education services

Employment services

Service coordination/case management

Service delivery models using Positive Youth Development principles and best practices

### Agencies providing services to homeless and runaway youth include

Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare

DePaul Treatment Services

Outside In

New Avenues for Youth

Janus Youth Programs

Collaborative is part of larger county government's focus on vulnerable populations.

## **Yonge Street Mission**

**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

Yonge Street Mission was founded in 1896. Last year, over 139,000 visits to the Mission's different programs and services were experienced by nearly 12,000 individuals. The organization's diverse programs focus on making a positive difference in the lives of families, seniors, socially isolated adults, homeless street youth, and the many children growing up in our low-income community.

### **Evergreen**

One of five branches of Yonge Street Mission, Evergreen focuses on meeting the needs of Toronto's large street youth population. A wide variety of programs and services are available to street-involved youth under 25.

#### Services at Evergreen

##### **Drop-in Centre**

Hot meals and snacks  
Breakfast, lunch and dinner programs  
Games and recreation  
Referrals and advocacy  
Informal counseling  
Telephone access  
Showers  
Basic street necessities  
Contact new youth on the street  
Assistance in getting ID

##### **Specialized Ministries**

Art programs and special projects  
Karaoke and movie days  
Picnics, outings & recreation programs  
Special projects in response to youth needs  
Drug & alcohol awareness

##### **Employment Resource Center**

High support job opportunities  
Job search, employment readiness and workforce integration  
Referrals to other employment training programs  
Peer mentoring opportunities  
Employment and life-skills workshops (resume writing, anger management, interview techniques, self-discovery, etc)  
Back to school & correspondence programs  
Access to computers, email, Internet  
Access to phones, fax and photocopier, voice mail, "Connecting Youth to Work Program"

##### **Medical Care**

Treatment for illness and injury  
Pregnancy – prenatal care  
Coaching during labor & delivery

Immunization for babies and adults

Medical check-ups

Lab tests - including HIV

**Dental Care**

Cleaning and dental hygiene

x-rays

fillings

extractions

**Optometry**

Examinations & glasses

**Other**

Chiropractic

Child Care

Foot Care Clinic & Sock Exchange

Assistance in getting Health Cards

Referrals

## **Iowa Homeless Youth Centers      Des Moines, IA**

The Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC) works to eliminate homelessness among children, youth and young mothers in Polk County. It is the largest provider of services to homeless youth in the state. IHYC offers a variety of programs and facilities that will teach homeless youth to live independently and become self-sufficient. The youth who are served are not part of the foster care or juvenile justice systems. IHYC often serves a last resort for older runaway and homeless youth who have exhausted community resources, family and friends.

### Services

#### **Street Outreach**

Vans with outreach team members go out every night to locate teens, providing immediate assistance, including shelter and helping them access resources they need. The program also promotes a 24-hour crisis hotline.

#### **Outreach Center**

The Center provides meals, access to services of other agencies, support groups, a food pantry, and one-on-one case management assistance.

#### **Reggie's Place**

This late night coffee house offers a safe place for entertainment and socializing without alcohol and drugs. Transportation to and from Reggie's Place is provided when needed. The venue also serves as a place for youth to talk with outreach members.

#### **Meals and Support Services**

Every Thursday and Sunday nights meals are provided and referrals to needed services. This program also offers access to showers and laundry facilities. Referrals include medical services, social services, and legal services. Transportation is provided when needed.

#### **Buchanan Transitional Living Center**

The Center serves as place where teens begin to learn and practice skills necessary to maintain independent living on their own.

#### **Lighthouse Host Home**

The Lighthouse is where young women ages 16 to 25 can live with their children and learn and practice parenting and independent living skills.

#### **Educational & Employment Services**

This support is offered to youth who need help in finishing school, getting a GED, getting started in college or post-high school training. Employment assistance is also provided.

Lighthouse Youth Services prevents youth in child welfare from becoming homeless and prevents young adults in the adult shelter system from remaining homeless through their Independent Living and Transitional Living Programs.

In 1981, Lighthouse developed a semi-supervised scattered-site apartment model based on the philosophy that young people learn best by "doing" and that youth should have opportunities to live on their own and develop self-sufficiency skills prior to discharge from care. The agency has served over 1000 youth in its model and averages around 80 youth a day living in their own apartments.

The Independent Living Programs target foster youth and juvenile offenders between the ages of 16 and 19. The Transitional Living Program targets homeless youth between the ages of 18 and 25.

Services

Lighthouse's Housing Continuum includes several housing options for youth:

**Scattered-Site Apartments**

**Supervised Apartments**

**Shared Homes (4-5 youth)**

**Host homes**

**Boarding Homes**

Having a number of housing options allows the program to find a living arrangement that meets a youth's particular needs. If a young person does not succeed in living in his or her own in an apartment, they can be moved to other living arrangements until the right option is identified.

Youth retain affordable housing at discharge, often taking over the lease of the apartment or accessing low-income housing. They also learn budgeting, money management, and self-sufficiency skills.