HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your support of Avenues directly impacts more than 300 homeless youth every year. Here are some examples of what you can do to help:

Financial support — Avenues relies on community donations for more than half of its annual budget. Make a secure donation online (www.avenuesforyouth.org), mail a check (1708 Oak Park Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55411) or call to make a credit card donation, to discuss donations of stock or planned giving.

Donate supplies — Visit our website to see what we need most on our current wish list or to learn more about donation drives.

Volunteer — We have an array of volunteer positions at Avenues, ranging from weekly commitments (e.g., cooking, tutoring, office support) to one-time or occasional activities (e.g., cleaning, painting, gardening).

Open your home — To learn about our host home programs, visit our website or call us.

Advocate — Share our stories with your networks. Let your elected officials know that you care about homeless youth.

MISSION

The mission of Avenues for Homeless Youth is to provide emergency shelter, short-term housing and supportive services for homeless youth in a safe and nurturing environment. Through such service, Avenues seeks to help youth achieve their personal goals and make a positive transition into young adulthood.

WHAT WE DO

Avenues for Homeless Youth supports more than 300 youth every year, helping them move from crisis to stability. As they begin to heal from their traumas, we guide youth to develop long-term goals and move toward more independent living and full participation in our community.

Contact us:
1708 Oak Park Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55411
info@avenuesforyouth.org
612-844-2001
William’s Story

“I found myself without a home. I stayed with my aunt, but there wasn’t room. Friends let me crash on their couch, but you can’t do that forever. Did I think I was homeless? Not really. I was just doing what I needed to do to survive.”

William says the first time he rode a bus all night to stay warm and sleep was really tough. Tired and needing a place to take a breather, he overheard some other kids talking about Avenues.

“They said it’s like a home. And it really is. You get a bed, shower, laundry…a place to keep your stuff and stay for awhile until you figure out what’s next. You can do homework, stay connected, look for a job. The three meals a day were pretty good! The staff are there around the clock.”

William moved into Avenues in the winter, graduated high school and stayed into the fall. His case manager helped him enroll at a community college and move into a local housing program.

“I’ve been taking some journalism classes. Even wrote an article for the school newspaper. I’ve got lots of stories inside me. Not all are easy to write. When you’re homeless, you see a lot. I’m glad I found Avenues when I did.”

ABOUT OUR YOUTH

Over 6,000 youth are homeless and on their own every night in Minnesota. Without youth-appropriate housing and support, they are at great risk. Within 48 hours of being on the street, youth are approached by someone who wants to exploit them.

But youth are resilient and filled with potential! At Avenues, we help more than 300 homeless youth every year move from surviving the streets to thriving young adults.

Join us. Read on to learn more about Avenues and how you can help homeless youth.

Wilder Research, 2015 Minnesota Homeless Study

ABOUT AVENUES

Avenues operates seven programs in the Twin Cities that provide more than 300 young people every year with shelter, transitional housing and services.

Site-Based Shelter & Transitional Housing

♦ Brooklyn Avenues – Supports 12 youth from the northwest suburbs of Hennepin County at our home in Brooklyn Park.
♦ Minneapolis Avenues – Supports 21 youth at our home in North Minneapolis.

Host Home Programs

Avenues’ three host home programs match youth with community volunteers who have been screened and trained.

♦ ConneQT Host Home Program – Supports 10 youth who identify as LGBTQ in the homes of hosts from one week to three months.
♦ GLBT Host Home Program – Supports 10 youth who identify as LGBTQ in the homes of hosts who are LGBTQ or allies for up to two years.
♦ Minneapolis and Suburban Host Home Program – Supports 20 youth from Minneapolis and suburbs of Hennepin County in host homes within their community.

Housing

♦ Avenues for Young Families – Our newest program supports 12 homeless youth-led families (one or two parents with children) with rent subsidies and supportive services.

OUR PROGRAMS

With basic needs met and with our support, youth can shift their energy from survival to important developmental activities like school, work, relationships, health, and life skills.

Most of Avenues’ youth transition to stable living arrangements, either more independently or with family. They stay connected and supported through our after-care services.

OUR APPROACH

Since 1994, Avenues has been helping homeless youth move from surviving to thriving. Our approach is founded on, The 9 Evidence-Based, Guiding Principles to Help Youth Overcome Homelessness. We understand that we intersect with young people at a particularly critical place on their life journey. We provide care that is trauma-informed, non-judgmental, holistic and collaborative. We build trusting relationships, focus on youths’ strengths, work to reduce harm and create positive opportunities for development.

Avenues’ committed and caring staff and volunteers support the youth 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Each youth works with our team of youth advocates and engagement specialists, mental health therapists, nurses, education specialists and community partners.