

## CONTACT US



The GLBT Host Home Program was created in 1997 out of a grassroots effort to address LGBTQ youth homelessness. It is a strong, resilient, and nationally recognized community-based program – one with 20 years of history. Youth may stay with their hosts up to two years.

**If you are a prospective host, please contact:**  
Raquel (Rocki) Simões | Program Manager

**If you are a youth, please contact:**  
Rosie Benser | Youth Advocate and Engagement Specialist  
612.750.9503 | rbenser@avenuesforyouth.org



ConneQT was created in 2016 to support LGBTQ youth in short term host homes. Youth may stay with their hosts for up to three months.

**If you are a prospective host, please contact:**  
Ryan Berg | Program Manager  
612.844.2014 | rberg@avenuesforyouth.org

**If you are a youth, please contact:**  
Kelly Brazil | Youth Advocate and Engagement Specialist  
612.214.5964 | kbrazil@avenuesforyouth.org

\*Hosts are not licensed or compensated for their participation. Our Host Home Programs are not Foster Care. For more information, visit our website. [www.avenuesforyouth.org](http://www.avenuesforyouth.org)

## CAN'T HOST BUT WANT TO HELP?

Our Host Home Programs are fully community-based, meaning we rely on donations from the community to operate. To help:

- Make a secure donation online at [www.avenuesforyouth.org](http://www.avenuesforyouth.org)
- Mail your check to Avenues at 1708 Oak Park Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411
- Make a gift of stock
- Collect and donate gift cards, bus passes and other supplies
- Host an Avenues' speaker for your faith, civic or work organization

Call 612-844-2001 for more information.



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.

**Avenues for Homeless Youth  
Administration Offices**  
1708 Oak Park Avenue North  
Minneapolis, MN 55411  
612.522.1690  
[www.avenuesforyouth.org](http://www.avenuesforyouth.org)

**AVENUES**  
FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

The logo for Avenues for Homeless Youth, featuring a purple house icon above the word 'AVENUES' in a large, bold, purple font, and the words 'FOR HOMELESS YOUTH' in a smaller, purple font below it.

**GLBT Host Home Program &  
ConneQT Host Home Program**

**Building Community  
One Host Home  
at a Time**



## YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

On any night in Minnesota, more than 6,000 youth are homeless and on their own. They are disproportionately youth of color and LGBTQ. Many are victims of violence and abuse. For most, their families and communities have faced multigenerational poverty, systemic oppression and institutional barriers.

## DOMINICK'S STORY

"My experience as a youth involved with the GLBT Host Home Program has been an unrivaled one. I entered the program when I was just 17 out of need, and left my host home a year and a half later, revived and back on my feet, and with a fresh outlook on my sense of independence and potential. Since moving out, I have been able to maintain a positive and healthy relationship with my hosts. I think this program is truly one of a kind and I would recommend involvement from both sides of the dynamic. Whether you are a youth looking for housing or an adult looking for ways to contribute to the very present issue of homelessness, the Host Home Program is definitely worth getting to know."

## THE PROGRAMS

The GLBT Host Home Program and ConneQT Host Home Programs of Avenues for Homeless Youth are a community response to youth homelessness. They are a volunteer-based approach to providing housing and support to youth ages 16 to 24, while also building community and resources.

The programs recruit, screen, train and support volunteer hosts who then open their homes to LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness. Youth participants receive support from their hosts and Avenues' staff. Volunteers may commit to short-term hosting of one week to three months (ConneQT) or long-term hosting up to two years (GLBT).

Our Host Home Programs also seek systems change - to truly end homelessness - through education and organizing on issues related to racial and economic justice.

## ABOUT HOSTING

Hosting a youth experiencing homelessness can be life changing for both hosts and youth. For young people who participate, a genuine connection to adults who share their homes and lives is a powerful way to foster hope, healing, self-determination, leadership and change. For hosts, participation directly reduces youth homelessness in their community.

Hosts receive ongoing support and training from Avenues' staff while youth are living with them. The youth receive ongoing case management support to help them make progress on their goals for education, employment, health care, independent living skills and more.



## BE A HOST

To meet application criteria, you must:

1. Be a nice person who genuinely cares about young people's lives
2. Have a commitment to social justice; be willing and committed to examining power and privilege
3. Have an extra bedroom or space for the youth
4. Be at least 25 years old
5. Have lived near the Twin Cities for at least one year
6. Live within one hour driving distance from downtown Minneapolis
7. Complete the application form
8. Have renter/homeowner's insurance
9. Have three references
10. Authorize background checks
11. Complete two interviews with program staff, including one in applicant's home
12. Complete the initial 16 hours of training, which will include training on white privilege and anti-racism
13. Still be a nice person after all of this

\*There is not a financial requirement to host.

To learn more about hosting, please contact one of our program managers (see over).