

HOPE 4 YOUTH | 2023 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



Providing Pathways to End Youth Homelessness



Youth homelessness is unacceptable.

HOPE 4 Youth is a nonprofit organization in Anoka County which helps young people ages 16 to 24 who are experiencing homelessness. Our name is an acronym for our focus areas: Housing, Outreach, Prevention, and Education/Employment.

Dear Friends of HOPE 4 Youth,

Thank you for a year of helping to create change. Your belief in our mission, and trust in our ability to impact the lives of the youth we serve allows us to provide life-changing resources and tools. We are honored to work with you to ensure the young people we support experience HOPE; together we are ending youth homelessness.

In 2023, youth coming through our doors were dealing with greater levels of mental health challenges, housing and food instability, and concern in their ability to succeed in school or work. Regardless of their experience, HOPE 4 Youth's doors were open. Youth reported advances in employment and educational goals. Youth reported improved health and well-being. Additionally, youth reported positive changes in relationships, resilience to cope with stress, and obtaining stable housing. It was a powerful year for 493 young people and their journey out of homelessness.

I invite you to review the following pages to read about our mission's impact. While youth realities will continue to shift, our commitment to our focused pillars ground our work.

1. Partnering in **prevention**
2. Providing **basic needs** to help stabilize youth
3. **Launch youth** through empowering programs and resources

As we turn the page to 2024, we launch our 2024-2026 Strategic Plan. We believe our commitment to life-enhancing programs, transformational partnerships, staff retention, operational improvements, and our dream of a larger HOPE 4 Youth Center will allow us to move the needle even further for the youth we support.

Thank you to our volunteers, donors, and community champions. Your time, talent, and donations allow us to do what is needed while providing a hand-up to those working on their success. Because of you, lives are changed, the future is bright, and HOPE is renewed.



In unending gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LaChelle Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive.

LaChelle Williams
Executive Director
HOPE 4 Youth

OUR MISSION

To provide pathways to end Youth homelessness

OUR VISION

All youth will feel safe, valued, and supported while reaching their full potential. This begins with meeting their basic needs and leads to giving them the tools to thrive.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

1

Provide life-enhancing programs empowering youth to reach their full potential.

2

Engage in transformational partnerships with community leaders, donors, and volunteers.

3

Laser focus on premier staff retention and operational improvement.

4

Select location and determine funding and operational plans for new HOPE 4 Youth Center.

OUR CORE VALUES



Resourceful

We collaborate to maximize resources and evolve to meet the changing needs of our participants and the community.



Accountable

We operate with integrity and are accountable to our youth, volunteers, community, donors, and employees.



Inclusive

We respect and embrace differences as a strength, allowing people to bring their full, authentic selves to HOPE 4 Youth.



Hopeful

We communicate and operate with optimism and believe in a bright future for the youth we serve and our community.



Compassionate

We serve and work with empathy and understanding to create a judgment-free environment.

OUR PROGRAM

We serve youth ages 16 to 24 at risk of losing their housing and those already experiencing homelessness.

The **HOPE 4 Youth Center** in Anoka is the hub for many of our services. It is a safe, non-judgmental place for all youth who are in need. No appointment is necessary to visit for a hot meal, clothing, hygiene items, shower, or laundry facilities. Case Managers at The HOPE 4 Youth Center connect young people to stable housing, health and wellness programs, education and employment opportunities, and more.

Our HOPE 4 Youth **Host Homes** program supports situations where a family friend, relative, or neighbor allows a young person to stay with them to avoid being homeless. This program turns these couch-hopping situations into more structured agreements that are beneficial to the hosts and the young people who are living with them.

HOPE 4 Youth **HOPE Place** is our 12-unit transitional housing facility in Coon Rapids that offers supportive services to 18 to 24 year olds who are experiencing homelessness. HOPE Place staff and community partners provide on-site case management, including education and employment guidance, all aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and long-term success.

In 2023, 493 youth made over 3,600 visits to HOPE 4 Youth, a 19% increase over last year.








25%	Young Parents
72%	BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)
65%	Female
33%	Male
2%	Non-Binary
23%	LGBTQ+

OUR APPROACH

The young people we see at HOPE 4 Youth carry many burdens. We recognize that every young person is on their own path where no two stories are the same. We are one touchpoint on their personal journey. As such, we have a four-fold approach¹ when walking alongside youth:

- 1) **Trauma-Informed Care (TIC):** Our staff is trained in TIC service delivery models. Rather than fixing what's wrong, we look at youth in terms of what has happened to them — specifically lived trauma. TIC helps us create safe spaces, build trust, and encourage youth to regain healthy responsibility.
- 2) **Strengths-Based:** Many youth experiencing homelessness have been in ongoing survival mode or endured trauma that has removed their fundamental sense of choice. At intake, Case Managers empower young adults to set goals based on their strengths and areas where they can regain control for long-term self-sufficiency.
- 3) **Client-Centered:** Effective solutions must be informed by the youth we serve. The HOPE 4 Youth Youth Advisory Council provides young adults the space to make recommendations for program improvement, especially related to including the voices of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth.
- 4) **Harm Reduction:** Ending youth homelessness relies on the important framework of harm reduction, where we encourage youth goal-setting to reduce the negative consequences of drug use, alcohol addiction, or other high-risk behaviors. Without judgment, we offer youth resources for improved sexual, mental, physical, and emotional health.

TOP 5 COUNTIES WE SERVE

-  Anoka County
-  Hennepin County
-  Ramsey County
-  Sherburne County
-  Washington County

82%

of our youth have
obtained or maintained
stable housing in the
last 6 months.

2

¹ Informed by "Measuring Up: Youth-level Outcomes and Measures for Systems Response to Youth Homelessness" from the University of Chicago, and the 2014 publication "9 Evidence-Based Principles to Help Youth Overcome Homelessness"

² Based on an initial January 2024 Survey post 6 months of engagement

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

HOPE 4 YOUTH CENTER



1128
Hours of One-on-One Support



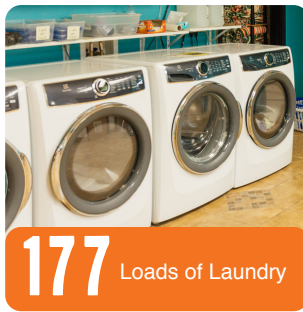
2,431 Food Pantry Visits



1,166 Clothing Closet Visits



1,731 Meals Served to Youth



177 Loads of Laundry



136 Hot Showers

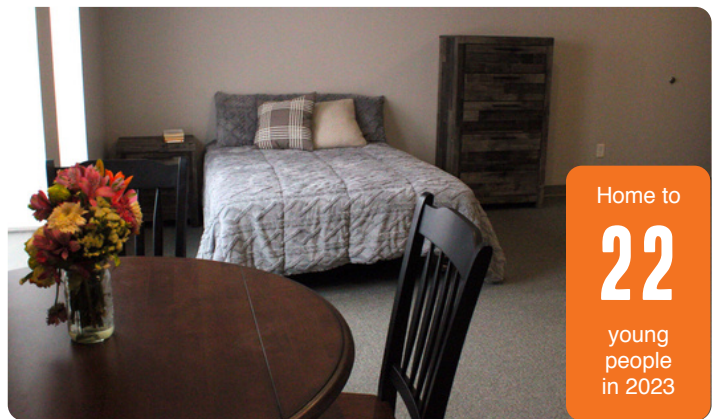


589 Child visits of parenting youth

HOPE PLACE



289
Hours of One-on-One Support



Home to **22** young people in 2023



5 Young people completed the program and moved to stable housing



10 Residents worked on employment with Anoka County Career Force



6 New residents moved in and started working towards self-sufficiency

CREATING CHANGE

HOPE 4 Youth's priority has always been to meet young people where they are and give them the support they need to end their experience with homelessness.

Every individual's story is unique with a variety of obstacles they have faced as a young adult. We believe in providing youth with resources and programs to help them learn, grow, and thrive.

The following stories provide a glimpse into some of the struggles and triumphs youth have experienced. HOPE 4 Youth has a direct impact in assisting youth to reach their goals and follow their dreams. Together we can continue to create change in the lives of young people.

STORIES OF CHANGE

When Aleah first came to HOPE 4 Youth, she was couch-hopping, living out of her car, and had stopped attending high school. Aleah's Anoka County Social Worker referred her to HOPE Place as a potential new resident. After a formal intake process with HOPE 4 Youth, Aleah moved into our 12-unit transitional housing facility, HOPE Place.



Aleah struggled with the transition from doing her own thing to living with required expectations at HOPE Place. One expectation is to meet weekly with the HOPE Place Case Manager. She struggled with this at first, but began to build trust and rapport with her Case Manager.

We partnered with

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agencies and services for best fit resources.

Aleah also began to meet with the Anoka County Career Counselor. Through meetings with the career counselor, she began to work towards her GED. Aleah was challenged by these classes. She had one test left and said to her HOPE Place Case Manager, "I give up, I am quitting." Through encouragement, Aleah pushed through and successfully received her GED.

While at HOPE Place, Aleah was able to develop a budget with the goal of buying a car. Through self-determination and persistence, she was able to purchase a car roughly a year later. During this period, she was hired full-time at a nearby hospital. Roughly six months later, Aleah began apartment hunting with her Case Manager. Soon after she was accepted and moved into her own apartment! ***Aleah was able to create change in her own life and experience HOPE!***

83%

of youth have developed healthier, better lasting relationships with family, friends, and other adults in the last 6 months.

2

"I was going to give up on my GED at least six different times but I had surrounded myself with caring people and was in various programs which supported me and pushed me to finish it... I couldn't be happier with everything I have accomplished for myself."

STORIES OF CHANGE



70% of youth have made advancements in their employment/career goals in the last 6 months. ²

Jaxon first came to HOPE 4 Youth while he was living at his girlfriend's house. Before living there Jaxon was in and out of foster care and was eventually adopted while in high school. Sadly, once he turned 18, his adoptive family kicked him out. His girlfriend's mom offered him a place to stay while he finished high school.

After graduating, he wasn't ready to live on his own. His girlfriend's mom worked with HOPE 4 Youth to create a Host Homes arrangement to provide Jaxon with direction and support. While in the Host Homes program, he received support from a Case Manager to prepare him for

living on his own. After looking at different options with his Case Manager, Jaxon expressed interest in our HOPE Place Program. Through coordination and communication between Case Managers at HOPE Place and the HOPE 4 Youth Center, Jaxon was housed at HOPE Place in under two weeks.

While at HOPE Place, Jaxon's determination and motivation led him to pass his permit test, begin practicing for his license, and acquire a full-time job. ***Jaxon is thriving at HOPE Place.***

HOPE 4 Youth received a call from the Alexandra House who shared they had a family of three who needed our support. Jess, an expecting mother, and her two children were running away from a domestic violence situation. Jess arrived at HOPE 4 Youth frightened and confused. She was relieved to hear we helped with housing because she did not want her children to live in a shelter long-term. Within days, our HOPE 4 Youth Case Managers began the process of finding her stable housing.

After being approved for an apartment, Jess and her children were able to move into their own apartment. ***Jess now has a stable and safe place to raise her children.***



25% of the youth we serve are parenting their own children. ²

STORIES OF CHANGE

Sam has been coming to HOPE 4 Youth for six months. When he first came, he was in and out of shelters and treatment. In his early months with us, Sam was able to apply for our Rapid Re-Housing Program. This led Sam to become hopeful, but things took a turn.

In a single week, Sam's car was towed and he ended up returning to treatment after a relapse. Sam was struggling to balance his emotions and behavior. He continually showed resistance to those trying to help him and was temporarily suspended from HOPE 4 Youth.

After demonstrating he wanted to reinvest in his future, the HOPE 4 Youth staff agreed to give him a second chance. Now sober, he began working with a Case Manager to find a job, continue mental health support, and search for a home. Empowered with resources from HOPE 4 Youth, **Sam moved into his own apartment and is excited for what's ahead.**



77%

of the youth feel their mental health has improved in the last six months.

²

"It's been so long since I have had a meal with someone and felt safe."

"I would have been in shelters my entire pregnancy without HOPE 4 Youth."

"I am so proud of myself and who I have become."

"I feel confident to go into my next phase of life."

"HOPE 4 Youth did a lot for me, at the time I didn't realize how much you changed my life"

"You helped me create a stable life and showed me compassion when I messed up."

"HOPE 4 Youth was there when no one else was"

"I am thankful to have a place to go if I need support."

VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

Our life-changing work is powered by an inspiring group of generous donors and volunteers who give money and time - often both.

990 Individual Donors

402 Organization and Business Donors

Over **447** volunteers served a total of **8,072 HOURS** valued at **\$256,690**

Outcomes:

- 1,220 hours of internships
- 174 Donation Drives
- 19,984 lbs of food donated
- 8,349 lbs of hygiene donated
- 108 Monthly Donors gave **\$130,745**

(Directly through our monthly giving or via their employee giving program)

2023 FINANCIALS

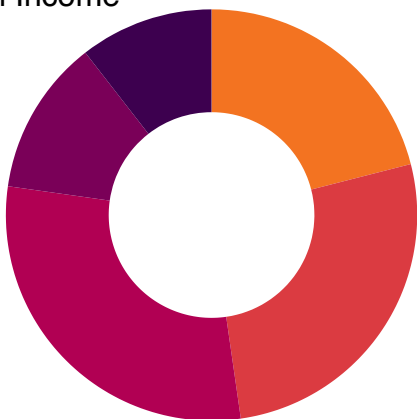
HOPE 4 Youth is committed to transparency, efficiency, and good stewardship.

Nearly, \$0.81 of every dollar directly supports our youth.

Income

\$1,899,319

Total Income

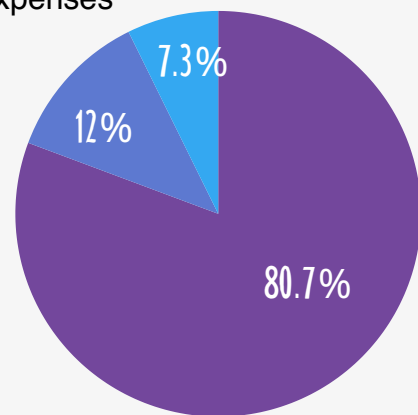


- **\$360,068** Individuals
- **\$457,610** Businesses, Faith Based, & Civic Organizations
- **\$505,659** Foundations & Government
- **\$209,824** Special Events
- **\$179,987** Earned Income & Investments
- **\$186,171** Gift in Kind

Expenses

\$1,802,413

Total Expenses



- **\$1,454,368** Program
- **\$216,620** Fundraising
- **\$131,425** Management & General

GET INVOLVED



Volunteer

HOPE 4 Youth provides meaningful one-time and long-term volunteer opportunities that allow you to make a difference in the lives of the young people we serve.



Donate Items

Many of our youth have little or nothing when they come to us. Being able to provide food, clothing, and other items helps restore a sense of hope, self-worth, and dignity.



Give Monthly

The help we provide is made possible, in part, by generous donors who make monthly gifts of HOPE.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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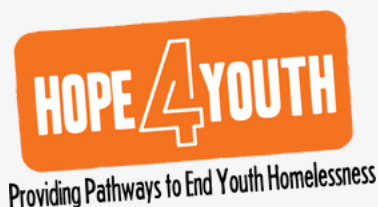
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