



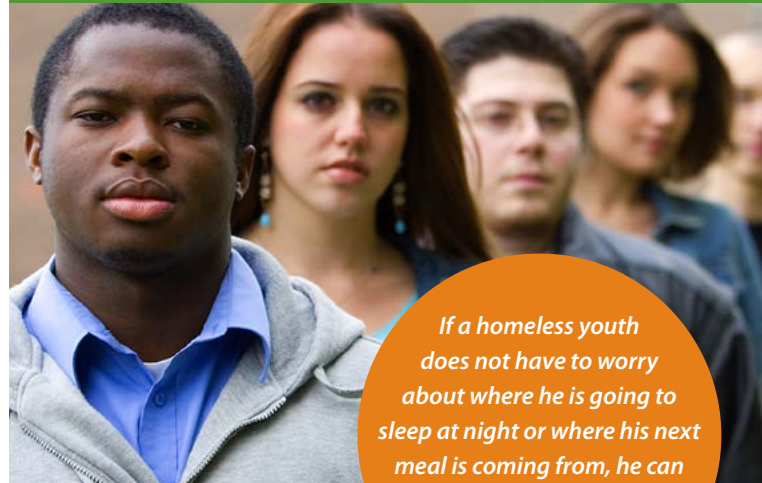
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www.hycaz.org

—MISSION—

In partnership with the community, Homeless Youth Connection raises awareness and meets the needs of homeless youth so they can stay in school and graduate.

Homeless Youth Connection is eligible for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Program for the Working Poor, §ARS43-1088. State taxpayers may be eligible for an Arizona State tax credit up to \$200 for individuals and \$400 for married couples.



If a homeless youth does not have to worry about where he is going to sleep at night or where his next meal is coming from, he can focus on staying in school and getting his diploma.

Studies Have Shown...

- Youth ages 12 to 17 are more at risk of homelessness than adults
- 75 percent of homeless or runaway youth have dropped out or will drop out of school
- There are more than 4,000 homeless youth ages 12 to 19 in Arizona
- 75 percent of runaways are female
- 46 percent of runaway and homeless youth reported being physically abused, 38 percent reported being emotionally abused, and 17 percent reported being forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member

Unaccompanied homeless youth, often referred to as “youth on their own” is the most difficult subpopulation of homelessness to quantify. Many homeless youth do what they have to do in order to survive, such as sleeping in cars, bartering sex for shelter, “couch surfing” from one friend’s house to another, or residing with abusive family members who threaten to “kick them out.” Without real support, such youth may find themselves in and out of jail, dependent on the welfare system, or living their life in a chronic state of crisis.



EMPOWERING
YOUTH
FOR THE *future*

Giving homeless youth a chance for a brighter future by providing the resources they need to stay in school and graduate.





What is Empowering Youth For the Future?

Homeless Youth Connection offers the Empowering Youth For the Future (EYFTF) program to provide homeless youth the resources they need to stay in school and graduate. Funding from EYFTF provides basic needs, case management, housing, and life skills.



Host Family Program

To address housing needs, HYC offers a Host Family program. Host homes are similar in concept to a foreign exchange student program. The homeless youth is matched with a host family who provides a stable living environment while the youth completes high school. Placing youth in a home setting allows them to build stronger relationships and interpersonal skills, experience stability in their home life, learn positive life skills that will help them transition to independence, and help motivate them to attain this quality of life in adulthood.

Host homes are utilized as a low-cost, community-engaging strategy to address the immediate need without incurring the high costs of operating an emergency shelter or transitional housing program (estimated at \$25,000 annually per child). The host family provides shelter, food and sometimes transportation for youth, while the organization delivers case management services. HYC creates partnerships between school organizations, service organizations and the ecumenical community within the school district to establish the host homes and provide a support network to assist with transportation, tutoring, meals and other needs.

Who do we serve?

- HYC serves homeless youth 13 to 19 years of age
- Youth attend high schools in the following districts: Agua Fria, Buckeye, Dysart, Peoria, Saddle Mountain and Tolleson
- Each youth is identified by their school as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act
- Youth must be free of substance abuse
- Youth are without a stable home and homeless through no fault or choice of their own



What do we offer?

Basic Needs

Clothing • School Supplies • Food • Hygiene Products

Case Management

- Assist with resources needed to stay in school
- Medical, dental and vision care
- Counseling referrals
- Obtaining vital documents
- Assistance with high school expenses
- Scholarship/grant searches and applications
- Job search assistance
- Identify and create a plan for after high school

Life Skills Programs

SEEDS (Social Emotional Education Development for Success) is designed to build cognitive, academic, social, and emotional competence for every student while still allowing each student to focus on individual strengths, talents, interests and future potential.

Through a series of independent workshops, and with guidance from their mentor, students are able to tailor a program to fit their specific needs. By offering independent workshops, the student charts his/her own path and determines which course(s) they'll participate in based on their interests, age, and current or future needs. Since each student creates their own program, they also gain ownership, and therefore, responsibility for the results. Program success is measured by the improved social and educational skills the youth develop.

It's about partnerships.



HYC works closely with high school counselors, teachers and administrators to identify homeless youth who need services. Once a student is identified, a call is made to HYC case managers who meet with the youth and school representative to determine the youth's

needs and level of service. Thanks to collaborations with local community agencies, organizations, and businesses youth receive a wide range of services, including tutoring, medical care, counseling, mentoring, life skills training, and career assistance.

How can you make a difference?

HYC is engaging community members, to invest in homeless youth, empowering them to reach their full potential and become successful, contributing members of our community.

Investing in a youth is not just about providing monetary support — it is about becoming a champion for a youth by providing homeless teens with housing, basic needs and services as they make positive, life-affirming choices toward becoming responsible, productive adults.

As a sponsor, you will receive updates on the progress youth are making while in the program.

For more information contact Dawn Bogart at dbogart@hycaz.org or 623-374-3747 or 602-565-3218.

Become a Sponsor

**\$1,000 PER YEAR
Payments may be made monthly for less than \$85**