



# ROD'S HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT

*ending youth homelessness*

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RODSHOUSE.ORG

   /rodshouseorg



## *mission*

**ROD'S HOUSE** builds authentic connections with young people, supports them in feeling respected and secure in who they are, empowers them to reach their full potential, and positively connects them to the community.

## *vision*

**ROD'S HOUSE** envisions an END to youth and young adult homelessness in the Yakima Valley.

To break the cycle of homelessness we will engage volunteers, donors, and the community.

Together, we work to ensure young people's basic human needs are met and that they have a safe, stable home; permanent, positive connections; meaningful education and employment opportunities; behavioral and physical healthcare; and supports that reinforce their individual abilities.

# Basic Services

1



## Basic Needs

No young person should experience hunger or wonder where they'll sleep. Studies show survival mode causes preoccupation with stress, so it's vital to meet survival needs while helping young people obtain important life milestones.

FOOD | SHELTER | CLOTHING  
HYGIENE | PHONE | & MORE

2

## Health

Depending on the individual's needs and our unique locations, we offer behavioral health services, life skills development, and more.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
MENTAL HEALTH CARE  
REFERRALS of CARE



## Future Goals

Through **case management**, we work with and empower young people to achieve their goals and reach important life milestones. The end goal is to help secure them into stable housing.

EDUCATION  
EMPLOYMENT  
HOUSING

3





## Drop-In Services

### Resource Center

*A place where young people can get basic needs met and receive case management, which helps with goal setting in education, employment, housing, healthcare appointments, and more.*

#### SERVICES OFFERED:

Hot meals every day • Clothing & shoes  
Hygiene items • Hot shower • Laundry  
Internet access • Stable mailing address • Phone  
Behavioral Health • Counseling  
Case Management

**204 S NACHES AVE  
YAKIMA, WA 98901**

#### OPEN: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri:

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
(for young adults 18-24)  
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
(for youth 13-17)

#### OPEN: Wednesday:

10 AM - 12 PM  
(for young adults 18-24)  
12:30 PM - 3 PM (for youth 13-17)

SNACK  
DONATION!

## Outreach Services

*Our outreach teams engage youth experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness, providing essential resources, building trust, and connecting youth with long-term services such as our shelters and/or case management.*

#### SERVICES DELIVERED:

Food • Clothing & shoes • Hygiene items  
Case management

#### HOURS:

Monday - Friday  
8 AM - 4 PM



# Shelters

## THE HOPE CENTER - Yakima

The Hope Center shelters offers a haven for young people:

- **8 beds available for youth** (13-17)
- **30 day stay for youth**
- **10 beds for young adults** (18-24)
- **90 day stay for young adults**

This facility is designed to be a supportive environment where young individuals can access essential services, including housing support, mental health care, and educational resources. Our dedicated case management and behavioral staff will be available on-site to provide continuous support and guidance.

## EXTREME WINTER WEATHER SHELTER

- Yakima

The Extreme Winter Weather Shelter (EWWS) is only open during the coldest months, typically **December - March**, to give young people a safe and warm place to stay overnight.

The goal is for the shelter to be open every winter annually, however this is determined by budgeting and various other factors.

## YOUNG ADULT EMERGENCY HOME - Sunnyside

- **Young adults** (18-24)
- **90 day stay**
- **24 hour staff support**

The Young Adult Emergency Home (YAEH) serves young adults experiencing homelessness. As they stay, staff helps young people address barriers in education, employment, mental health, etc. Young people will also be supported by case management and behavioral health staff.

Residents of the YAEH share a bedroom with one other person, and have access to their own bathroom, a kitchen and home cooked meals and laundry facilities.



IMAGE: THE SUNNYSIDE YAEH





*image: resource center*

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# 514

YOUNG PEOPLE  
SERVED IN 2024

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2  
0  
2  
4

## Services

**6,499** Visits to the Resource Center

**13,724** Meals Provided

**9,194** Beds for the Night

**357** Accessed the Resource Center

**32** Accessed the YAEH

**62** Accessed the Winter Shelter

**131** Served by Outreach

Every number involves real people  
*Every number is a story*





# Impact in Action

Our community, our donors, our volunteers, our staff,  
our meal partners – **YOU** – *make all of this possible*

## 22

Significant Educational  
Achievements Reached



When interpreting data  
like this, *it's important  
to understand:*

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## 34

Significant Employment  
Achievements Reached



Tracking exit numbers for our young people can be challenging due to the highly mobile nature of their circumstances and various external factors. Not all young people complete an exit interview, which means the data only reflects those who were able to participate in this process. While these numbers provide valuable insights, they represent just a portion of the young people we serve and may not capture the full scope of their experiences or outcomes.

## 101

Young People Went  
From Homeless to  
Stable Housing



## 2024 Young People Racial Demographics



### *why demographics are important*

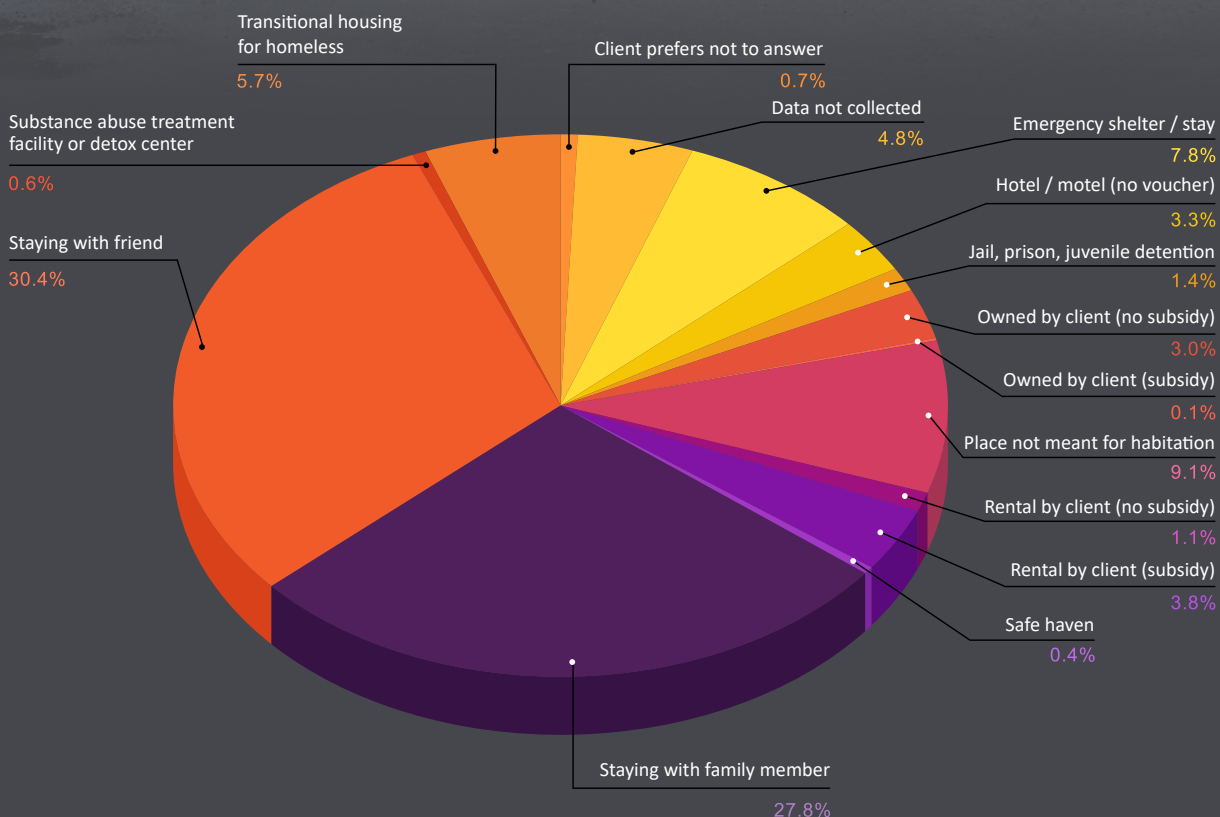
Disadvantaged and minority groups are disproportionately affected by youth homelessness due to societal barriers, discrimination, and class inequality. LGBTQ+ youth, for example, are at a higher risk of homelessness due to family rejection. Black, Indigenous, and other youth of color face structural racism that limits access to stable housing, education, and employment. Additionally, young people with disabilities, those aging out of foster care, and undocumented young people encounter unique challenges that make securing safe housing even more difficult.

These groups often experience **higher rates of poverty, trauma, and lack of support systems**, making them more vulnerable to homelessness and its long-term consequences.





## 2024 Young People Reported Residence



**Places not meant for habitation: 9.1%**

Can include a vehicle, an abandoned building, a bus/train/subway station, airport, or anywhere outside.

### Young Clients with Apartments / Housing: 8% Altogether

Our goal isn't just to help young people struggling with homelessness to achieve stable housing. Our goal is to also help young people **at risk of losing their housing**. We work with young adults who may be at risk due to economic hardship, lack of affordable housing, fleeing domestic abuse, and more.



# Attained Goals

## The Hope Center

What Does “Hope” Mean to You? Is it a dream for the future? A desire for yourself or for others? How does hope shape your life today and guide your daily choices?

This year, we opened the doors to the Hope Center, a facility that embodies these questions. The Hope Center is more than a building — it’s a beacon for young people aged 13-24, providing a safe haven and essential resources to help them thrive. The two shelters within the center offer 8 beds for youth aged 13-17 and 10 beds for young adults aged 18-24, creating a space where they can begin to rebuild their lives.

The Hope Center delivers more than just a roof over their heads. It provides comprehensive support, including life skills development, basic needs support, and case management.

On-site staff are dedicated to ensuring young people have the tools and guidance they need to take the next steps toward stability.

**“We are committed to creating a safe and nurturing space for young people in our community,”** said Chon Marquez, Executive Director. **“The Hope Center shelters are here to meet immediate needs while equipping youth and young adults with the tools to take control of their lives.”**

This facility is a foundation of hope—not just for the young people we serve but for the entire community. It’s where dreams take root and futures are shaped. It’s a reminder that ending homelessness for young people in Yakima requires community-driven action, and together, we can achieve it.

*what does hope mean to you?*







### The Hope Center continued:

This project represents a collaborative effort fueled by the vision, dedication, and belief in a better way forward. It reflects years of serving young people in Yakima County, the leadership of board members and executive directors who saw the need for this facility, and the generosity of donors and business partners who invested in its success.

The Hope Center is more than just a building — it's a manifestation of our collective hope, a symbol of the strength we find in community, and a commitment to ensuring every young person has the opportunity to find safety, stability, and self-determination.

Every young person is different but we aim for the same outcome: safe and stable housing.

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## The Hope Center goes beyond providing beds. It also offers:



- **Life skills development**

Assists with job readiness like interview prep and professional clothing, financial literacy, cooking, self-care, and more, empowering young people to achieve independence and self-sufficiency.



- **Case management support**

Includes goal setting in education, employment, and housing.



- **Basic needs assistance**

- **Family navigation services**



# Future Goals

## Sunnyside Resource Center:

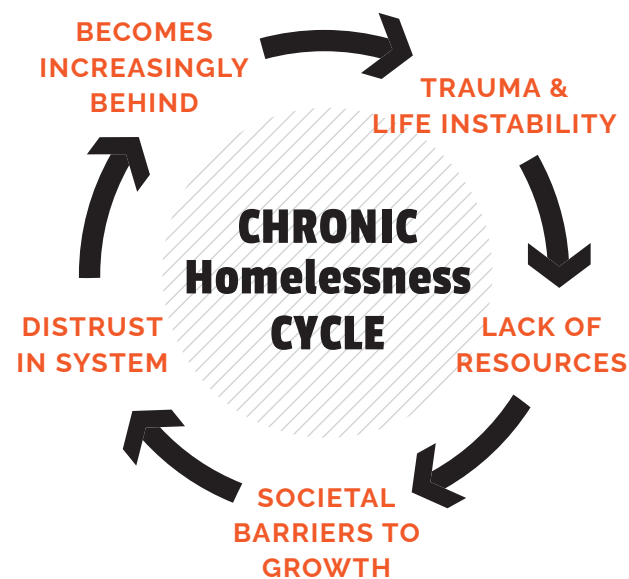
Eventually we want to open a **Resource Center** in Sunnyside, where our **Young Adult Emergency Home** is located. We want to be more accessible to young people in need in the Lower Valley.

## Young people in crises:

193 students in this district are experiencing homelessness. For these young people, life is defined by uncertainty — where they will sleep, how they will eat, and where they can feel safe. They are caught in a cycle of poverty that, without intervention, threatens to become a lifelong struggle.

( See our goal of *breaking the cycle* below. )

Beyond these economic and housing challenges, Sunnyside's youth are facing a deepening mental health crisis. In 2023, nearly one-third of middle and high school students reported feelings of hopelessness so severe they stopped their regular activities. Even more disturbing, a significant number of these students have seriously considered or attempted suicide. This combination of economic instability, homelessness, and mental health challenges represents an urgent crisis that requires immediate, targeted support.



The longer someone is homeless, the harder it becomes to break the cycle due to complications like credit history, legal issues, mental health struggles, lack of identification, and more.

## LIFE CYCLE MODEL

ADDRESSING STRUGGLES WITH HOMELESSNESS **EARLY** CAN HELP BREAK THE LIFE LONG CYCLE.

1 *let's break the cycle*

### YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT STRUGGLE WITH HOMELESSNESS BEGINS

50% fled physical abuse.  
25%+ fled child sex abuse.  
When aging out of foster care,  
31-46% struggled with homelessness by age 26 from lack of support & resources.  
**Other life causes.**





### Sunnyside Resource Center continued:

The Sunnyside Resource Center would be designed to meet these critical needs head-on. It will be more than a drop-in center — it will be a safe, stable haven for young people to build the foundations for a successful life. By offering access to food, hygiene supplies, clothing, and mental health services, it will provide immediate relief from the pressures these young people face.

But the center's work doesn't stop there. It will empower youth with educational support, life skills training, and access to employment opportunities, creating pathways to long-term stability and success. For the young people of Sunnyside, the Resource Center will be a lifeline—a space where they are empowered to make decisions, take control of their futures, **and build healthy, stable lives.**

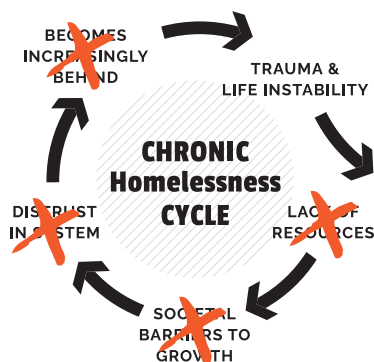
## Break the Cycle

### THE STRUGGLE PERPETUATES MORE STRUGGLE

2

Compared to non-homeless youth and young adults, experience far higher rates of:

- Suicide
- Depression and anxiety
- Physical health ailments
- Risk of substance abuse
- Being targeted for abuse, violence and sex crimes
- **And more struggles**



### YOUTH OR YOUNG ADULT SEEKS RESOURCES AND RECEIVES COMMUNITY AID

3

*a new chapter begins*

Youth and young adults facing homelessness find or are introduced to essential resources and support to break the cycle of chronic homelessness and build a stable future.

We do not “save” young people from homelessness. We empower them with the tools, resources, and support they need to lift themselves.

# Words from a

## Lead Case Manager

### What I Wish the Community Knew About Youth Homelessness

Young people don't choose to be homeless—most are forced into it by circumstances beyond their control. Many are pushed out due to conflicts with a non-biological parent, told, “You don't have to live here.” Others flee domestic violence, enduring sleepless nights of fear and instability, which impact their school performance and future opportunities. Some turn 18 only to be kicked out simply for aging into adulthood with no support.

### Breaking the Stigma

People often judge young adults on the streets or struggling with substance use, assuming they made bad choices. But many self-medicate to cope with trauma, not because they want to, but because they don't know another way to survive. Instead of judgment, they need understanding and support.

### The Challenges of Securing Stable Housing

To get housing, young people often need a birth certificate, Social Security card, income, credit score, and rental history—things they never had the chance to obtain before being kicked out. Without these, securing stable housing feels impossible.

### A Call for Compassion

Youth homelessness is driven by family rejection, abuse, trauma, and systemic barriers—not choice. These young people, like everyone else, just want to be loved, heard, and seen. A little compassion and support can make all the difference in helping them rebuild their lives.

*Isaiah*





# Words from our Youth Engagement Manager

Rosa



## **What I Wish the Community Knew About Youth Homelessness**

Something I wish the community knew is that homelessness comes in all different forms and ages. It's also important to realize that just because someone is young, it doesn't mean they have a family to fall back on.

## **Unique Challenges**

One of the biggest challenges I see our young people face is finding someone that believes them. Sometimes they're not taken seriously when it comes to homelessness. They're never homeless "enough", because if they have a "home", then they're not technically "homeless" – however, their living situation is completely unstable. It doesn't have all the basic necessities of a safe and comfortable home, like running water, electricity, food, clothing, ect. Sometimes, there's even abuse.

## **Common Misconceptions**

A misconception I see is the assumption that a chronically homeless young person "put themselves in that situation" and "they can change this at any time by going back (to that unstable) home".

## **A Call for Listening, Understanding, and Patience**

From what I've seen, the biggest help is listening to understand the young person, not to judge. They're already in a vulnerable state and they need support. We have to meet them where they are and be patient. Understand that not all of them want to open up right away. There'll be walls at times, but that's okay. We have to support them in every step and be prepared to move forward together on their own terms.

# Funds in Action

*your dollars at work*



**of every dollar**  
Rod's House spends  
is invested into  
**SERVICES FOR**  
our **YOUNG PEOPLE**

This is *higher*  
than the national  
average, which is  
65 cents of  
every dollar.

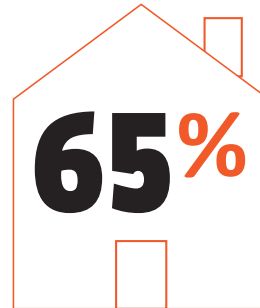
[ HOW THIS IS DISTRIBUTED ]



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH - 1%**

*on the rise*

We just onboarded our  
Director of Behavioral  
Health Services in 2024 and  
are building a program to  
strengthen our internal services.



of funds go to  
**HOUSING**  
**ASSISTANCE**



of funds go to  
**BASIC NEEDS**



of funds go to  
**CASE**  
**MANAGEMENT**



of funds go to  
**OUTREACH**

**Transparency check:** Some people express concern over funds going to direct mail, however we will mention that investing in direct mail most often pays for itself and increases funds. It's an important part of community connection and good fundraising.



# Why We Do This

**Our young people are resilient, but resilience alone isn't enough to overcome the barriers they face.**

**These barriers include disruptions to their education, limited access to mental health care, social isolation, a lack of a trusted support network, and inadequate access to basic hygiene items.**

**Many of these obstacles are things some of us have never had to consider—*privileges we often take for granted.***

Homelessness in Yakima County is a growing crisis, significantly affecting our youth. In 2024, we served over 500 young people — each with a unique story but all facing the same harsh reality: no safe place to call home.

The young people we serve come from diverse and often challenging backgrounds. Many have faced family rejection due to their lifestyle choices, sexuality, or gender identity, leaving them without a safe place to turn. Others have been forced out of their homes due to family size constraints, with older siblings often being the first to go. They are young adults living in their cars while working full-time and going to school, or survivors of domestic violence fleeing unsafe homes.

For some, navigating unhealthy relationships with family members or significant others has left them searching for stability and shelter. We have even encountered foster youth who were put out of their homes, while foster parents continued to collect benefits on their behalf. These young people often fear coming forward, worried about being taken into custody again. Through trust,

support, and advocacy, we help them report their situations and connect with the resources they need.

Our young people are resilient, but resilience alone isn't enough to overcome the barriers they face. These barriers include disruptions to their education, limited access to mental health care, social isolation, a lack of a trusted support network, and inadequate access to basic hygiene items. Many of these obstacles are things some of us have never had to consider—privileges we often take for granted.

Every young person in our community deserves more than just survival — they deserve safety, dignity, and the chance to thrive. They deserve a bed to sleep in, a hot meal, timely mental health care, and the opportunity to build a life they can be proud of. At Rod's House, we don't just provide resources; we empower young people to create meaningful change in their own lives. We walk alongside them as partners, helping them build job skills, pursue educational goals, and develop the autonomy they need to shape their futures.

*they deserve a chance to thrive*

# How **You** Can **Help**

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When you support our work, you're not just changing the lives of young people experiencing homelessness—you're creating a ripple effect of positive change throughout our community.

**Your investment directly provides shelter, meals, and critical support to youth in crisis, but its impact goes much further. *It strengthens Yakima County as a whole* — making our streets safer, our businesses stronger, and our families more connected.**

**By empowering young people today, we're building a future workforce, fostering educational success, and ensuring the next generation can contribute meaningfully to our community.**

Together, we can break the cycle of youth homelessness, uplift entire neighborhoods, and create a thriving, compassionate community for everyone.

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## **Donate**

*Funds help keep the shelter lights on, let staff keep doing the work, and assure young people are taken care of*



## **Shop our Amazon Wishlist**

*Buy urgent needs that are sent directly to us*





SAY HI TO  
ONE OF OUR  
VOLUNTEERS!



## Get Involved In Our Donation Center

*Join us in our mission.*

### LOCATION / HOURS

314 Cherry Ave, Suite 119, Yakima 98902

**OPEN: Tuesday - Friday**

12 PM to 4 PM

### VOLUNTEER

If you're interested, apply on our website:

**Rodshouse.org**

### DONATE

**Urgently needed items always include:**

- Hygiene, including feminine hygiene products
- Men's and women's underwear
- Food, drinks, and snacks



## Provide a Meal

*Become a meal partner.*

Our meal partners are individuals, businesses, churches, and friend groups who graciously take the time to home cook or buy a meal for our young people.

Yep, that's right! We take **pre-bought and homecooked** meals.







# We're all better together

**DID YOU KNOW** studies consistently show that giving to others and donating increases happiness and feelings of connection?

*invest*

in our young people today

