

NIGHTSTOP

DURHAM
YOUTH
SERVICES



NIGHTSTOP VOLUNTEER DRIVER

Introduction

At Durham Youth Services (DYS), we partner with youth to achieve and maintain lasting solutions to their housing crisis. We know that for a young person to successfully transition from homelessness to housing, they need financial capital (rent subsidies, income supports), social capital (attachment to family and natural supports and meaningful connections to the community) and identity capital (grounded in a sense of purpose, a sense of control, self-efficacy, and self-esteem).

Because any incident of homelessness for young people should be rare, brief and non-recurring, DYS offers programs and wrap-around supports in homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing and housing stabilization with the goal of breaking the cycle of homelessness permanently.

Program Description

Nightstop is an alternative to shelter that adopts a preventative approach to homelessness by intervening at an early stage of crisis in order to help youth secure safe temporary housing, avoiding the shelter system or sleeping "rough" on the streets.

The program engages the community to act as "Hosts" for low-risk youth who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Youth can reside in the program for up to 6 weeks as they work towards reintegration with their family or finding suitable longer-term housing. The accommodation is provided for one night initially but is reviewed on a night-by-night basis.

Role of Volunteer Drivers

Volunteer Drivers play a pivotal role in ensuring youth can receive safe transportation with a kind and caring adult. As a warm and welcoming volunteer, you will offer on-time transportation service prearranged by DYS.

Often our volunteer drivers are the first face a youth see's after intaking into Nightstop. The driver will be pick up and transport the youth to the Host's home the day of the placement.



NIGHTSTOP

Main tasks

- Provide transportation to/from the Host Volunteer home (arranged by DYS)
- Build rapport with youth to try and put them at ease during transit.
- Point out places of interest (i.e. Library, community centre, park, coffee shops, etc.)
- Introduce youth to their Host Volunteer (communicate with DYS after transfer is complete)
- Provide youth with safe transportation to/from their work/school.
- Maintain confidentiality of youth and their Hosts
- Keep records of each journey to claim expenses.
- Adhere to the terms of DYS volunteer policies and procedures.
- Observe clear professional boundaries with the young persons accessing Nightstop.

Necessary skills, attitudes, and knowledge

- A basic understanding of youth homelessness
- An ability to relate to people on a one to one, non-judgmental basis.
- A desire to work with people who are at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- A full current G driver's license and vehicle in good working condition
- Current Drivers Abstract
- \$2 million liability car insurance
- A willingness to participate in training.
- Be involved in consultation regarding the role.
- A current Police Vulnerable Sector Check

Support and Supervision

Before a Volunteer Driver begins to transport a young person, DYS will provide a detailed orientation that covers what to expect from the role. All Volunteer Drivers will be provided with 24hr on call telephone support, guidance, and debriefing.

DYS will do regular check-ins and encourage debriefing opportunities, to ensure our volunteers feel supported.

Next steps

All applicants should complete a Driver Volunteer Application Form and will be subject to a Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC), reference checks, an informal interview, proof of insurance, drivers abstract and completion of training.

Applications to be a Volunteer Driver can be submitted on our website or directly to nightstop@durhamyouth.com

