

NIGHTSTOP

DURHAM
YOUTH
SERVICES



NIGHTSTOP VOLUNTEER HOSTS

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.

This accommodation is provided for one night initially but is reviewed on a night-by-night basis.

Being a Host Volunteer(s)

Nightstop relies on our community of volunteers to provide their homes as a safe place for youth in need of respite accommodation. Hosts are responsible for providing a private bedroom, access to laundry and bathroom facilities, as well as three meals (dinner, breakfast, and a packed lunch).



NIGHTSTOP

Hosts will receive \$35 per night when a youth stays with them to cover the cost of meals.

Main Tasks

- Provide a clean, safe, and private spare room. (Flexible to short notice requests)
- Prepare/provide youth with an evening meal, breakfast, and packed lunch.
- Provide the youth with a shower or bath and the opportunity to wash their clothes.
- To liaise with DYS regarding their availability and to provide regular feedback after every placement.
- Complete initial training program prior to undertaking the role and to participate in ongoing training as needed.
- Adhere to the terms of DYS policies and its Code of Conduct.
- To contribute positively to the continuous development of the project/ team.
- To observe clear professional boundaries in our relations with the youth we work with.

Necessary skills, attitudes, and knowledge

- A basic understanding of issues that youth face.
- An ability to relate to youth on a one to one, non-judgmental basis.
- A desire to work with people who are at risk of/are experiencing homelessness.
- A willingness to participate in training and be involved in consultation regarding the role.
- A spare room available for use by a person referred by Nightstop with short notice.

Training, support, and supervision

Host Volunteer(s) are provided with an extensive induction training session to help prepare for this invaluable contribution for youth in need of safety. DYS is committed to offering ongoing training to ensure our volunteers are supported. In addition, all Host Volunteer(s) will be provided with regular support meetings and supervision.

Hosts will receive a daily check-in from DYS for the duration of a Nightstop placement, as well as access to 24- hour on-call emergency phone numbers to allow access to advice and guidance.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

DYS believes that no person should be treated less favorably than any other person because of their race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, disability, sex, age, marital status, or sexual orientation.

We are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all staff, volunteers, and people with whom we work. We believe that selection of Host Volunteers should be based solely on the



NIGHTSTOP

ability to meet the requirements of the role. We aim to remove discrimination, to provide equal access to opportunities and training, and to ensure that all those who work alongside us enjoy the full benefits of being a Host Volunteer.

Next Steps

All applicants should complete a Host Volunteer Application Form and will be subject to a Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC), reference checks, an informal interview, completion of training, a home assessment, and a home visit prior to being offered the role.

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

