



Youth Housing:

Creating a Launching Pad, Not a Parking Lot

Our Journey Begins...



2013 Community Options

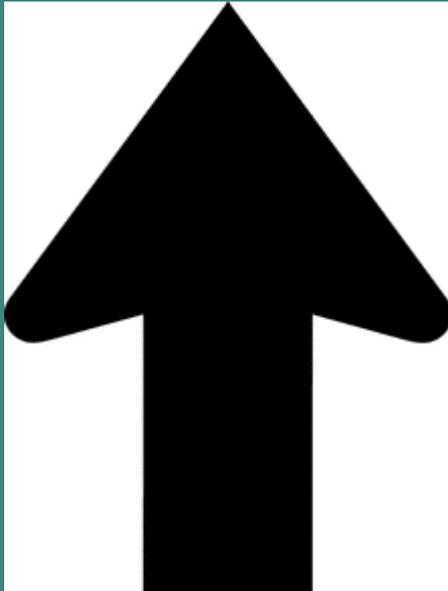
Emergency Shelter	✓ -
Host Homes	x
Transitional Living Program	x
Independent Living Program	x

I ALWAYS
WONDERED WHY
SOMEBODY DID'NT
DO SOMETHING ABOUT
THAT, THEN I REALIZED
I AM SOMEBODY

Building Opportunity...

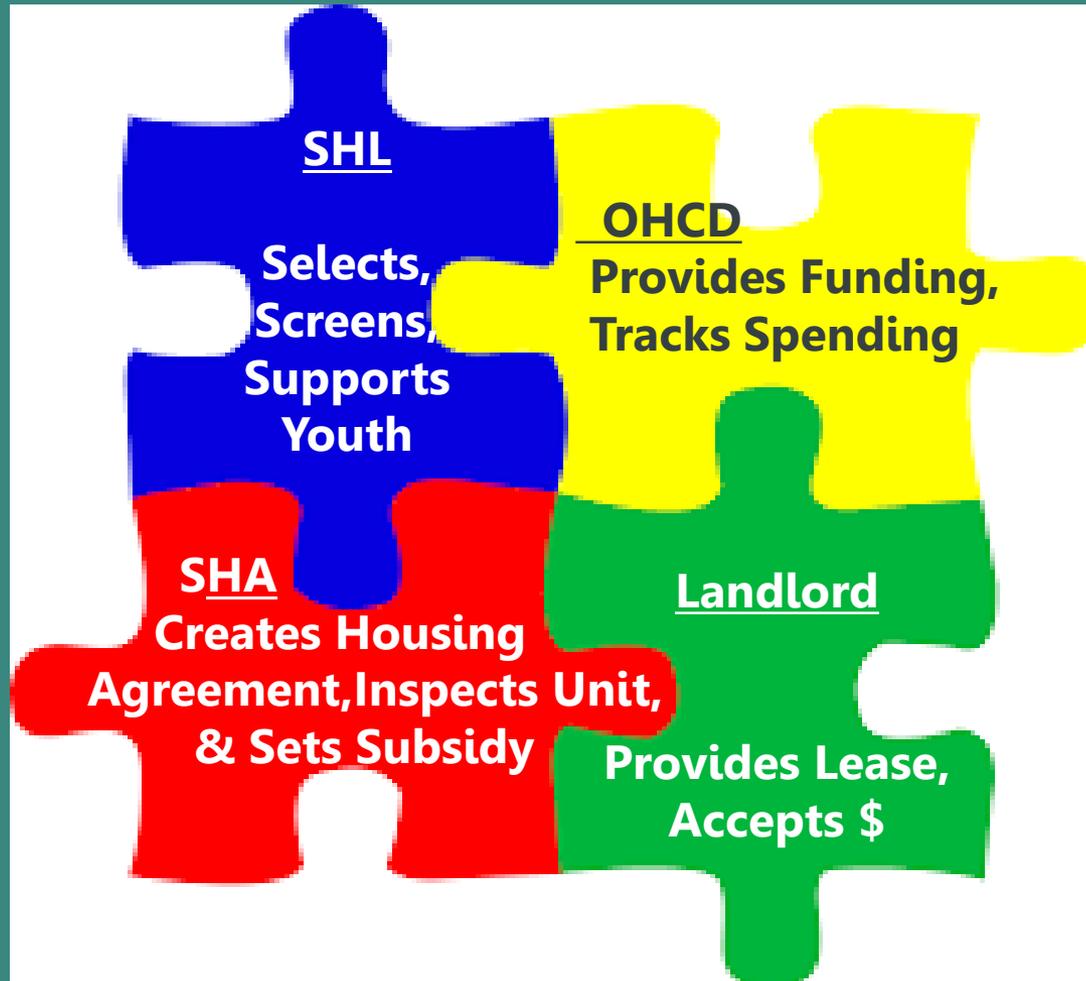


Creating a Launching Pad



- **Incentivize Education**
- **Require Employment**
- **Build Responsibility through bill payment**
- **Incorporate Life Skills**
- **Time Limited Assistance**

Assigning Roles



Developing Outcomes

- **Continue Education**
- **Increase Housing Stability**
- **Develop Employment Skills**
- **Improve Well Being**
- **No Legal Involvement**

One Story...

Can Make a Difference!





Community Development: Lessons Learned

- **Be willing to try new things!**
- **Be willing to take the lead!**
- **Don't let little road blocks stop you!**
- **Build on partner strengths!**
- **Think outside the box!**
- **Learn as you go!**

7 Basic Steps to Youth Housing

1. Must meet basic program qualifications
2. Complete the application & submit all required documentation
3. Youth housing search
4. Property inspection & rent rate determined
5. Move in day
6. Life Skills
7. Ongoing communication, support, and success planning

Program Qualifications

Housing Status	Must be homeless & unaccompanied
Age	18-22
Education	Must prove enrollment, good attendance and a minimum of 2.0 GPA
Employment	Must document Part-Time employment
Income	Must be low income
Substance Use	No active substance use or addictions
Mental Health	Must be stable and on medication if prescribed

Paperwork

- SRQ CLASS Application & Contract
- Required Documentation
 - Birth Certificate
 - Legal ID
 - Social Security Card
 - Pay stubs
 - Bank Statement
 - School Schedule with Grades
 - Letter from Employer

Youth Housing Search

- Youth locates apartment and talks with landlord about lease
 - ✓ Must be in County and be at or below fair market rate
 - ✓ Landlord must be willing to rent to youth and take rent subsidy
 - ✓ Unit must pass inspection
 - ✓ Landlord must be willing to complete housing paperwork
- Housing Authority reviews paperwork, inspects property, determines rent rate, and creates agreements for youth and landlord

Ready, Set, Go!

- Youth Accepted for Program
- Paperwork Submitted and Approved
- Inspection Completed
- Lease Signed
- Electric, cable, water deposits completed and connection complete
- Move In Day Set!

Move In Day

- Meet with youth ahead of time to determine what is needed for the apartment
- Shopping
- Rarely do our youth have anything except clothes to bring to their new place. Many do not even realize what they will need to maintain an apartment
- We are fortunate to have donors who provide funding to assist us in setting our young men and women up in the apartment. We schedule a shopping trip where we purchase a variety of things for them such as: cleaning supplies, dishes, utensils, pots and pans, bedding, and also some food to start them in their new apartment. They are usually overwhelmed with the shopping trip because many have no idea the cost or what they actually will need to begin life in their own apartment.



Life Skills

- Require attendance
- Set meeting time based on their schedule - School and work schedules can change each semester – flexibility is important
- Select Relevant Topics: Such as budgeting and finance; buying a car and car insurance, goal setting and life planning; travel; relaxation methods; mental health



Supervision

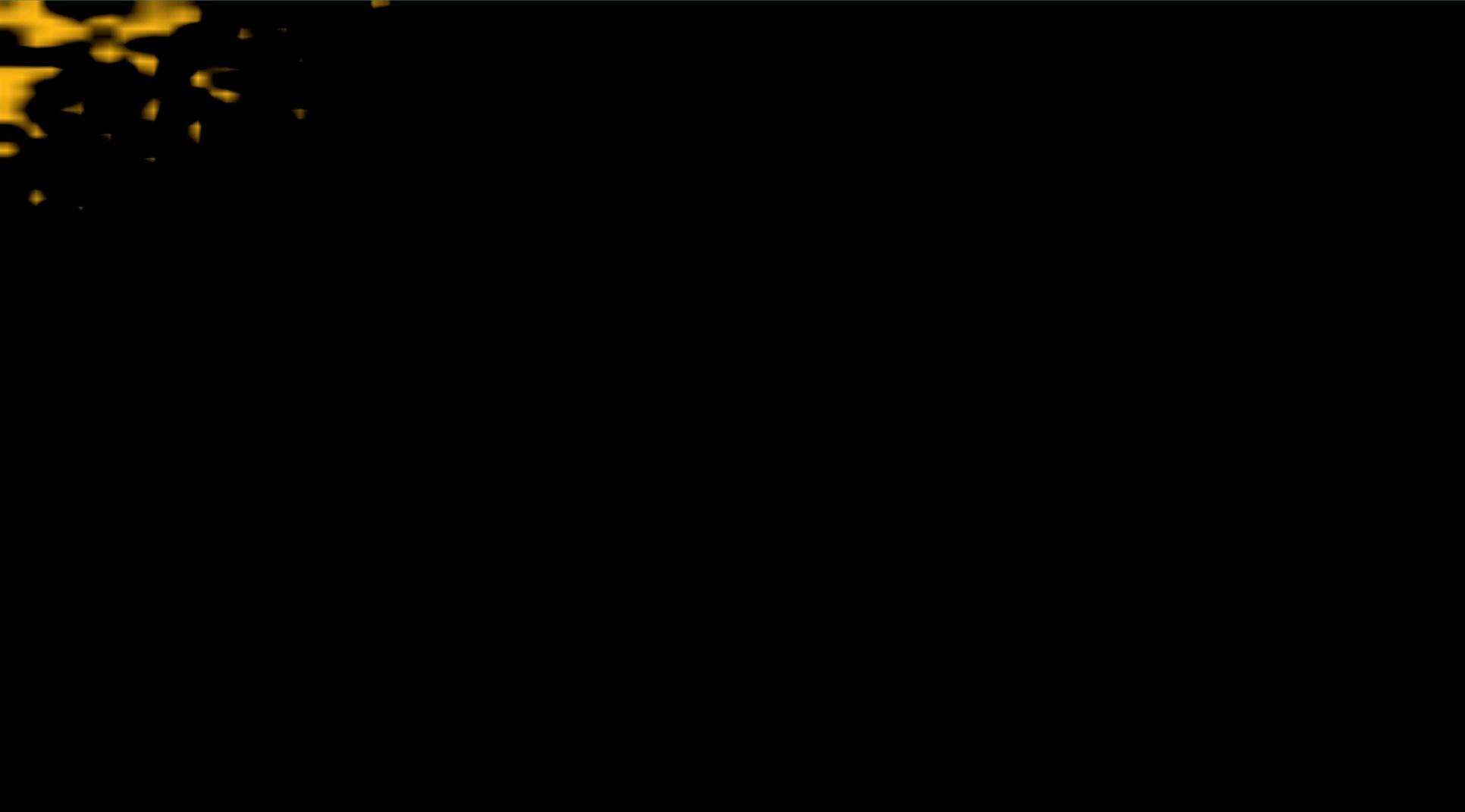
- Contact and arrange to meet/speak with youth once a week for the first month
- Drop in unexpectedly
- Keep in contact with the landlord, when possible, to make sure they are not having people spend the night, etc.
- This is a critical time to ensure that the youth do not become overwhelmed with their new situation.
- If I feel a youth is not adjusting or is starting to miss school/work, I make a practice of just dropping by. This reminds them that they are not alone and also that they need to comply with the terms of the program.
- Unfortunately many of our youth are easily taken advantage of by their family, friends, etc.

Supervision - Continued

- Monitor attendance
- Maintain contact with Guidance Counselors
- Watch for signs of insecurity, inability to sleep, etc.
- Continue to check on their attendance – getting up on their own is sometimes difficult
- This is critical to make sure they are progressing in their academics. Having no one to answer to or around sometimes takes away the motivation to do homework, study etc.
- Many times our youth become nervous about living alone or insecure about their ability to maintain their own place.



“At least I’ll have a roof
over my head and not
be wet tonight”. -
Chris, Age 18





Youth Housing: Lessons Learned

- Simplify housing search
- Be there on Day 1 and help with household items
- Help with transitions (high school to college)
- Don't over book. Youth are busy!
- Little things matter. Show you care.
- It is nice to be together with others who have been in similar situation.
- Plan next steps with youth.

Program Participants

23

Homeless Unaccompanied Youth participated in the SRQ CLASS program.

The Average Age of UHY:

19

Female	15
Male	8

12	Black
6	White
5	Hispanic

4

Program participants were parents with custody of a small child

Financial Summary

- Average Monthly Rent Stipend: \$544.00
 - ⇒ Average Annual Stipend Cost: \$6,532.00
 - Average Monthly Client Rent Portion: \$129.00
 - ↑ Highest Rent Amount: \$516.00
 - ↓ Lowest Rent Amount: \$13.00
- ⇒ Approximate Monthly Cost of Utilities (Paid by Youth): \$150

Average length of stay: **14** months

Program Outcomes

- Housing:

79% of youth were compliant with their twelve month lease.

- 0 legal evictions
- 0 utilities shut off

- Employment:

96% of youth have maintained employment.

- Well Being:

100% of youth participated in Life Skills Classes.

- Legal:

91% of youth have remained free of legal programs.

Education Outcomes

- 12 students entered the SRQ Class Program while in high school.
- 1 student is still in high school, and expected to graduate this fall.
- 100% of SRQ CLASS students have earned a high school diploma.



- 7 students have completed a College Degree.
- 3 students are still working towards a College Degree.



*"Because I walked by faith and not by sight,
I am proud to announce that I graduated
with my Associates of the Arts Degree in Elementary Education".*



Brittley

Class of 2017

The Power of an Open Door

- *“The opportunity to have a place of my own, gave me a sense of security, hope, and peace of mind.*
- *Because of this program, I am in a position where I can help people who are in similar situations as I was. Without the help from the YMCA, I honestly don't know where I would be.*
- *Starting/spreading programs like this across different regions will give other teens the hope that no matter what their situation is and how bad it is, they can still be successful, they can still achieve whatever they set their mind to, and things will get better.”*

» – *Brittley Mayes, College Graduate*

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**Community
Living for
At-Risk
Student
Success**



Lessons Learned:

- In the end it is about supporting our youth, continuing their education and building a better tomorrow!
- “I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.” - Angela Davis



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Thank You!

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