



# Fighting to End Youth Homelessness

Millions of young people will experience a form of homelessness in North and Central America this year.

## Who is at risk of youth homelessness?

About 50% of all unhoused youth were homeless for the first time in the past year. Nearly half of all youth who experience homelessness do so more than once.

Young people who are Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous are at greatest risk of experiencing homelessness. Additionally, LGBTQ+ youth experience homelessness at significantly higher rates than their peers. Once on the street, they face additional hardships because of stigma and discrimination.



Children raised in poverty or who lack housing security and youth without a high school diploma or equivalency also have a higher risk of homelessness. The vast majority of youth do not become homeless by choice. The causes are complex, and are not due to a single incident or issue.


## What does Covenant House do?

Our doors are open 24/7 across Covenant House sites in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras.


Covenant House is the largest primarily privately funded agency in North and Central America providing services and support for youth facing homelessness regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Our programs range from prevention to direct care to aftercare and include shelter, food, medical and mental health care, crisis intervention, educational and vocational opportunities, and an array of supportive services.

Since 1972, Covenant House has served and advocated for youth and young families overcoming homelessness, human trafficking, and exploitation in an environment rooted in unconditional love, absolute respect, and relentless support. Our staff and our high-quality programs help young people achieve housing stability, heal from trauma, and forge new pathways to independence.

## What's our impact?

 **790,000** nights of safe housing provided

 **1.7 million** meals served

 **58,000** young people reached

Fiscal year 2023

## What can you do?

We can't do this work alone. Covenant House is always expanding our community of supporters and advocates to include individuals, companies, foundations, faith-based organizations, and program alumni. Our most successful partnerships are collaborative and affirm the dignity and wholeness of the journey of each young person at Covenant House.



## Holistic Health Care

Last year, youth made 24,000 visits to an on-site medical clinic and 3,800 young people engaged in mental health services.



Our work recognizes the deep impact trauma has had on our youth and the importance of building mental health resilience and ongoing physical wellness to help them move forward with their lives. We have a wide array of programs and policies at our sites that help center mental and physical health care, from open intake to aftercare services.

## Education and Workforce Development

Last year, 3,200 youth enrolled or remained in school. Additionally, 3,300 youth engaged in on-site workforce development programs and 2,500 youth obtained or maintained employment.

Young people arrive at Covenant House with dreams that have been disrupted by homelessness. Advancing educationally and preparing for the world of work are key to a young person's prospects for leaving homelessness behind. Either directly or through referral, we guide youth to appropriate educational and vocational opportunities, matching each young person's strengths and abilities with their career interests.

Our career pathways programs help youth prepare for careers that offer a livable wage and room to grow professionally, which is critical to the long-term stability of our young people.



## Anti-Human Trafficking



Our research shows that 68% of youth who had either been trafficked or engaged in survival sex had done so while homeless.

About one in five youth who find safety at Covenant House in the United States and Canada, and one in two who shelter with us in Latin America are survivors of human trafficking. All of our houses provide refuge and direct care for survivors and we work to stop exploitation as part of the strongest anti-trafficking movement in the Americas. Our research exposes the toll of human trafficking on children and youth, continually updates and improves our models of care, and informs our advocacy efforts to protect all young people.

## Young Families

Last year, Covenant House served 352 young parents and 462 babies and children.



About 44% of young women and 18% of young men, ages 18-25, who face homelessness in the U.S. report being a parent or pregnant. Pregnancy and parenting are common among young people facing homelessness.

Covenant House is one of only a handful of youth shelters that offer housing and holistic care to young families. When we welcome a young parent into one of our houses, we provide wraparound services that support them while they work on acquiring skills and knowledge that will allow them to build a stable life for themselves and their children.

## Housing

Last year, 2,400 youth exited one of our housing programs to a stable destination.

Housing is a basic human need, which no one should be denied. It is a cornerstone of a successful life, providing shelter, safety, and stability. A lack of available housing leads to youth homelessness. Across our federation, Covenant House provides emergency shelter as well as transitional and supportive housing programs. Some Covenant House sites have also developed apartment programs that provide youth with time-limited rental subsidies to help them transition from our care to their own housing.

