WHO WE ARE

Millions of young people will experience a form of homelessness in North and Central America this year, either couch surfing, living on the streets ... or in some way relying on others for a roof over their heads each night. That means about one in every 10 young people will face homelessness at some point in their lives. And since the first Covenant House doors opened over 50 years ago, we've welcomed more than 1.5 million of them.

But it's more than just a number. These are teenagers and young adults already going through a challenging moment in their lives, a moment fraught with stress, uncertainty, and the desire to fit in. Many are forced to deal with the additional harm of racism, sexism, and homophobia as they begin to embrace their full identities. Now add to the mix the unforgiving stress, stigma, and pain of homelessness, and you have one of the greatest challenges our society faces today: ensuring that every young person has a safe and nourishing place to live and grow into adulthood.

Covenant House began as a single site in New York City and has since expanded to 34 cities across five countries. Each night of 2023, more than 2,200 young people slept in a Covenant House bed, at absolutely no cost.







At Covenant House, we know that safe shelter is only the beginning, so we offer every youth wraparound services that include nutritious meals, clothing, and medical and mental health care. As their lives stabilize, our programs journey with them from crisis care to long-term support, so youth can establish and reach their goals through our education, job readiness, and career development programs.

In our transitional living programs, residents live for up to 18 months in semi-independence, while they complete their education and maintain employment. They learn to shop, cook, and clean; manage a savings account, and benefit from professional counseling, vocational training, and the power of living in a loving, supportive community. Our houses include carefully designed spaces to cater to the needs and interests of our youth, from music, to sports, to art.

The goal is that every young person who walks through our doors will ultimately walk out more secure and with the support and opportunities that will help them live stable and fulfilling lives, free of the risk of future homelessness.



To see our work in action and to learn how we help young people build sustained independence through transitional living and affordable housing, read this Newsroom article about Derrick, a former resident living and working at Covenant House California's newest apartment program.

