



YES: Overview

Background & Key Facts

- Youth Emergency Services (YES) was founded in 1974 by a group of community volunteers as an effort to provide a safe place for the homeless youth they began seeing on the street corners of the Old Market.
- YES' programs address the immediate needs youth have for housing, food and safety, while also encouraging their participation in essential support services that offer the skills and resources needed to help them reach their full potential and keep them off the streets for good.
- In the Omaha and Council Bluffs area, YES has helped over 5,000 youth escape a crisis situation.
- **Today, YES is the safety net for the homeless and at-risk youth in our community, and has a proven track record of helping youth turn their lives around.**

Programs

- The *Shelter Program* offers a structured home and family-style environment for youth ages 16-18.
- The *Street Outreach Program* patrols the area in search of youth in need and directs youth ages 12-21 to the YES Outreach Center where youth can receive positive help and support.
- The *Maternity Group Home* provides a home for young mothers ages 16-21 to develop parenting and life skills, while learning to become self-sufficient and financially stable.
- The *Transitional Living Program* gives youth ages 16-21 the skills and resources to reach their full potential.

Program Highlights

- In 2010, the *Street Outreach Program* was one of eleven nationally recognized organizations to participate in a study to measure the program's impact on street youth.
- YES is the only agency in the Omaha area focused directly on helping the run-away and homeless youth turn their life in a positive direction.
- The *Street Outreach Program* is the only street-based outreach program for the run-away, homeless and at-risk youth in the metropolitan Omaha area.
- The *Maternity Group Home* is Omaha's only program for pregnant or parenting 16-21 year old homeless youth.
- YES is the local affiliate for the *National Safe Place Program* in Nebraska.

Current Outlook: Youth on the Streets

- It is estimated that each year 1.6 – 2.1 million youth are homeless in the United States.
- In Omaha and Council Bluffs alone, 408 children and young people experienced homelessness sometime in April 2011. This number is believed to represent only a percentage of the youth without a safe place to stay.
- Of YES' clients:
 - Many have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused.
 - Nearly half cannot return home.
 - Many suffer from poor health, mental health issues and substance abuse issues.

Our Results: Keeping Youth off the Street

- In 2010-11, YES assisted over 800 homeless and at-risk youth in one of four programs.
- The *Street Outreach Program* alone helped 712 individual youth on the streets and found a safe place for 152 of those youth to stay.
- At the *Emergency Shelter* 100% of youth left the program modeling independent behaviors.
- Over 50% of young mothers in the *Maternity Group Home* secured employment during their stay.
- YES helped 430 youth escape a crisis situation in our community through the Safe Place Program.
- The *Transitional Living Program* recently expanded capacity to house 14 youth at one time, almost double previous capacity.