



# Youth Focus Talking Points

## What services does Youth Focus provide?

Youth Focus' mission is helping youth achieve safety, security, and success. We serve youth between the ages of 11 and 24 who are experiencing homelessness by providing a safe place to live as well as the needed physical, emotional, and mental health supports. This is accomplished through six different programs:

- **Safe Place** (Access & Referral Network)
- **Act Together Crisis Care** (Temporary Emergency Shelter)
- **HEARTH Transitional Living Program** (Housing-18 months/Independent Living Skills)
- **My Sister Susan's House** (Transitional Living Program for pregnant & parenting moms)
- **HEARTH Beyond** (Rental Assistance)
- **Safe Haven** (Mental health treatment, peer support, case management)

## How do youth come to Youth Focus?

As the agency that supports the Safe Place program in Guilford, Alamance, Randolph and Davidson Counties, youth can access our services at any Safe Place location across those counties. Referrals also come from the Department of Social Services, the juvenile justice system, pediatricians, hospitals, insurance companies, school counselors, friends, and other agencies.

## How is Youth Focus Unique:

Youth Focus is the ONLY agency in our community that is dedicated to the needs of **youth** experiencing homelessness. All other services serving those experiencing homelessness in our area are designed for adults. In fact, you have to travel more than 150 miles outside of the Guilford County area to find similar programs. Imagine back to the time when you were between the ages of 11 to 24. What if your home was not a safe place for you to be for whatever reason? What if you were alone and trying to figure out where to go and how to fend for yourself? How thankful would you be to have a resource like Youth Focus?

## What are the most common circumstances that cause a youth to need our services?

Each youth's situations are unique, but common reasons youth need our services include domestic violence, unsafe living conditions in the home, being kicked out for being LGBTQIA, human trafficking, waiting for a foster placement, alternative to detention for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

## How many youth do we serve each year?

On average, Youth Focus serves over 250 youth each year.

## Where does the agency get its funding from?

Youth Focus receives most of its funding from government grants. Unfortunately, these funds don't completely cover the cost of the services being provided. Every year, we need to raise more than \$300,000 in charitable contributions to bridge the gap between the funding provided by government grants and other funding sources and the actual cost of the care we provide.



**YOUTH FOCUS**