

According to available national research, between 20% and 40% of all homeless youth identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (GLBT).*

It's time to learn about the GLBT Host Home Program.



"My experience as a youth involved with the GLBT Host Home Program has been an unrivaled one. I entered the program when I was just 17 out of need and left my host home a year and a half later, revived and back on my feet, and with a fresh outlook on my sense of independence and potential. Since moving out, I have been able to maintain a positive and healthy relationship with my hosts. I think this program is truly one of a kind and I would recommend involvement from both sides of the dynamic. Whether you are a youth looking for housing or an adult looking for ways to contribute to the very present issue of homelessness, the Host Home Program is definitely worth getting to know."

- Dominick, now 27

Recent national and local research

* The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and the National Coalition for the Homeless released a publication in January of 2007 with results from their comprehensive national review of available research on homeless queer youth. To see the full report, *An Epidemic of Homelessness*, you can visit www.thetaskforce.org and click on Reports and Research.

In Minnesota, Wilder Research recently released its statewide survey *Overview of Homelessness in Minnesota 2006*. According to this study, on any given night there are an estimated 1,850-1,950 homeless young people (21 and under) in Minnesota. Eleven percent of those young folks identify as GLBT. This number does NOT include those who identified as 'unsure' when asked about their sexual orientation and gender identity. The vast majority of homeless youth - GLBT or not - are youth of color. For the full report, go to www.wilder.org and click on Wilder Research.

GLBT HOST HOME PROGRAM

Avenues for Homeless Youth
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GLBT

HOST HOME

PROGRAM



**Building
community,
one host home
at a time.**



Avenues for Homeless Youth

Avenues for Homeless Youth is a 15-bed shelter in North Minneapolis committed to providing emergency shelter, short term housing and support services for homeless youth in a safe and nurturing environment.

Avenues for Homeless Youth also runs a volunteer and community based program: the **GLBT Host Home Program**, which recruits, screens, trains, and supports adults who open their homes to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender young people ages 16-21 who need stable and safe housing. While in host homes, youth have an opportunity to build long-lasting relationships and live in an environment that encourages and respects self-determination. As we build stronger communities through providing homes and nurturing connection, we also strive to link social services with social change and social justice. The GLBT Host Home Program is not solely interested in securing homes for youth, but also in becoming aware of and challenging systems that cause and maintain homelessness.

We exist because of the involvement and passion of youth, hosts, Advisory Council members, youth advocates, case managers, volunteers, funders, friends, allies, and many others!

Interested in becoming a host?

To meet application criteria, you must:

1. Be a nice person who genuinely cares about young people's lives.
2. Have a commitment to social justice.
3. Have an extra bedroom for the youth.
4. Be at least 25 years old.
5. Have lived in the Twin Cities for at least one year.
6. Live within one hour driving distance from Downtown Minneapolis.
7. Complete the application form.
8. Have renter/homeowner's insurance.
9. Have three references.
10. Authorize background checks, which include:
 - MN Dept. of Human Services (BCA)
 - Public Records (i.e. arrest reports)
 - Intellicorp
11. Complete an interview with Program Manager and Advisory Council member.
12. Complete a home interview with Program Manager and Youth.
13. Complete initial 14 hours of training, which will include training on white privilege and anti-racism.
14. Still be a nice person after all of this.



Not ready to be a host?
For other volunteer opportunities at
Avenues for Homeless Youth, contact Heather Rist:
(612) 522-1690, ext. 101
heather@avenuesforyouth.org

A LITTLE HISTORY:

From 1998-2004, the GLBT Host Home Program was started and maintained by YouthLink, a non-profit agency serving youth in Minneapolis. During those 6 years, 50+ young people secured host homes. For many of the youth and hosts, participating in the program was a wonderful life-changing experience. None of them would say it was an easy process, but as one past host succinctly stated:

"Having the kids live with us is by far the most important and meaningful thing we've ever done."

For more information on the GLBT Host Home Program, please contact Raquel (Rocki) Simões, GLBT Host Home Program Manager @

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