

YOUTH OUTREACH TEAM

PURPOSE: To reach out to youth who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, abuse, and exploitation.

WHOM WE SERVE:

Youth and young adults experiencing homelessness/at-risk of homelessness from a wide range of ethnic, religious, and racial backgrounds. Youth are male, female, and transgender. These young people are typically ages 14-21, although we do encounter youth as young as 10 and as old as 25.

PROGRAM: Members of the Youth Outreach Team create an accessible, non-judgmental, youth-friendly, supportive presence in areas frequented by homeless and at-risk youth. Staff members provide trustworthy adult relationships and information for healthy, informed choices, along with basic support, including:

- nutritious food
- wide range of self-care and wellness supplies
- crisis management
- stress reduction
- counseling
- educational support
- referrals to a wide range of vocational and employment training and support
- support in enrollment in Chicago Public Schools and post-secondary educational facilities
- connection to healthcare, including
 - *medical*
 - *mental health*
 - *dental*
 - *wellness programs*
 - *pre-natal care*
- advocacy on issues relevant to homeless youth
- referrals to other services
- empowerment
- goal-setting and development for youth based on individual needs and situations

LOCATIONS:

- Regular outreach events on the streets of Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood
- Drop-In Center at the Broadway Youth Center
- Youth-friendly cultural and community celebrations
- After-school outreach near Senn High School
- On foot through the streets of Lakeview and other youth-gathering spots.

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