



Drive-Host Toolkit

Contents

- Contents 1
- YouthCare’s Mission Statement..... 2
- YouthCare – Who We Are 2
- Overview of Drives 3
- How to Host a Drive 3
 - 1. Spread the Word..... 3
 - 2. Make it Easy to Donate 3
 - 3. Deliver Your Donations to YouthCare 3
 - 4. Celebrate Your Success!..... 3
- Other Ways You Can Help!..... 4
- Testimonials of YouthCare’s impact 4
- Sample posts for Social Media 5
 - Sample tweets..... 5
 - Sample Facebook posts..... 5

YouthCare's Mission Statement

YouthCare builds confidence and self-sufficiency for homeless youth by providing a continuum of care that includes prevention, family reunification, outreach, basic services, emergency shelter, housing, counseling, education, and employment training.

YouthCare – Who We Are

Each night in Seattle, nearly 1,000 young people have no safe place to sleep. That's thousands of homeless youth every year, forced to live in survival mode.

Most were traumatized before they reached our streets. Each day they spend on them will take its toll. It isn't difficult to understand why so many chronically homeless adults report having been homeless as youth.

At YouthCare, we serve children as young as 12 and young adults all of 24. On the streets, rather than having a *childhood*, youth endure greater fear than anyone should ever experience. At ages for finding mentors and role models, young adults learn to trust no one. All of these young people should be imagining and building a future. Instead, they're occupied with getting to tomorrow.

We know how to help that young person in the doorway become a youth in school, an adult on the job, and a stable and independent member of the community. It takes a "continuum of care": a coordinated set of individually appropriate services.

YouthCare wisely uses every dollar and resource, but we ask for the community's partnership and help to ensure we can support each of the young people we meet. Since 1974, as need and demand for services has continued to grow significantly, we have been able to meet our mission and do our best work only with the help of people, families, and businesses, who generously gather and donate essential supplies and tools. We would simply have to turn away youth without this kindness.

Both regionally and across the nation, YouthCare is recognized for our unique service model and the scope of services we can offer. From specialized counseling to formal and informal coaching in life skills, from GED and high school classes to employment training, the continuum of care is the surest way to get homeless youth off the streets and preparing for life. This comprehensive model has been identified by both the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and the National Network for Youth as the preferred, and most impactful way to move homeless youth and young adults forward in their lives.

We are very thankful for your interest in hosting a drive, and for helping homeless youth and young adults in our community. You are part of the solution and we're looking forward to working with you!

Overview of Drives

Youth both on the streets and in YouthCare housing are in constant need of hygiene supplies, clothing, and food. School supplies help us stretch the budgets for our education programs and support students enrolled in traditional high schools and community colleges. Bus tickets get these young people to job interviews, medical appointments, shelter, and other services.

But hosting a drive doesn't just help provide these and other much-needed items. It's one of the best ways to raise awareness in the community of the challenges facing its homeless youth. Your business, organization, school, church, or other community group can make a big difference by hosting a drive and spreading the word, thus helping us to meet present needs and attract broader support. Find out more about our [year-round needs](#) and our [current needs](#).

How to Host a Drive

In-kind donations play an important role in helping YouthCare keep costs down and meet the needs of homeless youth. The list of [current needs](#) changes depending on the time of year, and there are [ongoing items](#) that are always necessary and useful in this work. You can help — and help us inform the community and mobilize its support. Once you determine the items you will be collecting, here's how to run a great drive!

Spread the Word

Most people want to help; they just need to be asked. You can send emails, use postcards or flyers, or post to Facebook, Twitter, and other social media. Bring up the drive at meetings and group gatherings. Host a party and ask guests to bring a donated item. YouthCare can help with drafting language and by providing brochures, postcards, and other collateral.

Make it Easy to Donate

Have a central location for people to drop off their items. For office or school drives, make sure you have collection boxes in several locations. You can also collect items during a holiday party or office gathering. Monetary donations, including gift cards, are also welcome; in many cases, they're the best option for youth finding what they need and getting the right fit.

Deliver Your Donations to YouthCare

You can bring your donation to YouthCare's main office located at 2500 NE 54th St, Seattle, WA 98105 during business hours, Monday–Friday, 9:00am–5:00pm. In-kind donation receipts will be issued to you for your tax purposes.

Celebrate Your Success!

Don't forget to thank your donors! Post pictures of your donations to Facebook (and tag YouthCare!) or share your success in your group's newsletter. If you are sharing publicly, let us know; we want to recognize your great drive!

Have questions? Contact us at donations@youthcare.org or (206) 204-1404.

YOUTH CARE

Homeless youth ➔ Off the streets ➔ Preparing for life

Other Ways You Can Help!

- ✓ Make a quick and easy donation through [YouthCare's Wish List](#) on Amazon.com, and items will be shipped directly to us.
- ✓ Make a cash donation online at www.youthcare.org.
- ✓ Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

Testimonials of YouthCare's impact

"The holiday drive is important because it helps save me and my friends from freezing to death. It gives us something to look forward to for the holidays: a sleeping bag, a new pair of socks, or a gift card to a coffee shop." – Carly, age 17

"If it wasn't for YouthCare, I wouldn't have gotten my first job without the job training experience they gave me." – Scott, age 20

"What is hard about being homeless is the way people look at me, the lack of a warm place to stay when I'm sick, not having a place to call 'home.'"

– Troy, age 16



Sample posts for Social Media

Sample tweets

Looking for a worthwhile cause to support? @YouthCareSEA helps #Seattle's #homeless #youth stay safe and warm. www.youthcare.org.

My family is supporting @YouthCareSEA to get #homeless #youth off the streets and preparing for life. youthcare.org.

My shopping list for homeless youth: socks, underwear, sleeping bags. Support @YouthCareSEA to help these kids stay safe and move forward.

Nearly 1,000 youth are #homeless in Seattle each night. Help them move off the streets. Support @YouthCareSEA. www.youthcare.org

Sample Facebook posts

Looking for a worthwhile cause to support? YouthCare helps Seattle's homeless youth stay safe and warm.

My family is supporting YouthCare to get homeless youth off the streets and preparing for life. Will you join us?

We are including homeless youth in our shopping list: socks, underwear, sleeping bags. Support YouthCare and visit their Amazon Wish List to help these kids stay safe and move forward.

Nearly 1,000 youth are homeless in Seattle each night. Help them move off the streets. Join me in supporting YouthCare.

