

Vision

To make youth homelessness in Perth County a rare, brief and non-recurring experience.

Mission

To support youth experiencing homelessness, or at-risk of experiencing homelessness through prevention, advocacy, shelter and community connection services.



Values

Excellence
in service

Integrity
in our work

Kindness
towards self and others

Responsibility
to the community

Respect
for all



Donate

You can help through a one-time donation, monthly giving or helping with our needed items.



Get Involved

Host a third-party fundraiser or event.



Spread the word

We are here if you or someone you know needs help.

Shelterlink Youth Services
130 Youngs Street – 3rd Floor
Stratford, ON N5A 1J7
519.272.2294
www.shelterlink.org



Join us in transforming futures!

Scan for more information.




Shelterlink
YOUTH SERVICES

Supporting Perth County youth experiencing homelessness, or at-risk of homelessness, since 1991.



Shelterlink Youth Services



shelterlinkyouthservices

1 in 5 Canadians experiencing homelessness are youth between the ages of 13 to 24.

40% of homeless youth in Canada first experienced homelessness before the age of 16.



Young individuals who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ are disproportionately represented, with one-third of Canada's homeless youth identifying as part of this group.

Why youth-specific homelessness services are important...

Youth homelessness differs from adult homelessness in its causes, impacts, and the types of interventions required.

Street-involved youth face a sixfold increase in victimization compared to the general population.

The longer a young person is homeless, the greater their risk of dropping out of school, experiencing sexual exploitation, trauma, and developing addictions.

Services are most effective when they are tailored to youth and are developmentally appropriate.

Young people are more likely to thrive and transition successfully into adulthood when they receive guidance and mentorship from caring adults, as well as support from networks and communities.

"Without a Home: The National Youth Homelessness Survey"



Did you know?

Shelter Services



SUPPORT FOR YOUTH AGED 16-24 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

24/7 Support

Walk-in and telephone support is available at any time to help a youth facing an immediate housing crisis.

Shelter diversion

All possible safe and appropriate housing options with natural supports are explored prior to shelter admission.

15 short-term emergency beds

Offering shelter from the elements and immediate support for youth who are without a place to stay.

Basic needs

Meals, clothing, personal care items, showers and laundry facilities available throughout shelter stay.

Housing-focused

The primary aim of the shelter program and case management services is to help youth secure housing and reconnect with their community as swiftly as possible.

Employment and education resources

Connection to financial and educational resources are available so youth can obtain and sustain housing and increase their prospects for a better future.

Outreach Services

SUPPORT FOR YOUTH AGED 14-24 AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Prevention

Early intervention is crucial for minimizing the chances of youth experiencing homelessness by offering essential support and resources before a crisis occurs.

Family mediation

Helping youth and their families identify solutions to challenges that may result in family breakdown and potential homelessness.

Family reunification

Helping youth re-establish connections with family and assisting them with overcoming the barriers to reunification.

Trusteeships

Available to youth aged 16 and 17 that are receiving Ontario Works and need an adult to help with financial guidance and requirements of the program.

Community consultations and information sessions

Consults or referrals from community welcome. Information sessions relating to youth homelessness and services provided also available.

Post-shelter support

Providing social and community integration, along with life skills support after shelter stays, enables youth to transition successfully to independence and maintain stable housing.