

# Closing the door on homelessness



**The transition to adulthood can be difficult to navigate, especially for youth in their late teens and early 20s who have spent most of their lives in state care.**

When these young adults “age out” of the child welfare system, they are offered limited support. Research has shown that, in addition to experiencing homelessness, transitional age youth can face unemployment, early pregnancy, substance abuse and other hardships, and they are less likely to earn a college degree or hold a steady job than their peers. Our programs not only aim to end youth homelessness, they strive to divert these outcomes by providing access to therapeutic care, positive peer and mentor relationships, educational and life skills supports, and more.

At The Home, we provide a bridge to better, brighter futures and work strategically to advocate for and give visibility to this forgotten age group. Our young adult programs provide safe, stable environments where youth can think beyond immediate challenges—like finding a place to sleep or a meal—and begin to build independent lives. Every young adult has the right to envision a hopeful future; we help them get there by supporting them with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

# HELPING OLDER CHILDREN BUILD INDEPENDENT LIVES

The Home's independent and group living solutions use a unique blend of public and private funds and housing partnerships to help keep youth off the streets for good.

## HOW WE HELP

### Massachusetts

Opened in partnership with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), **Roxbury House** is a first-of-its-kind independent living program in Roxbury, Mass., providing residential support and trauma-informed care for young adults ages 18-25 who suffer from mental health challenges. Residents have their clinical and developmental needs met, while gaining essential life skills, like learning how to retain employment or job training, and saving and managing money, for future independence and stability. Roxbury House offers access to peer and clinical mentors, 24-hour staff support and programming through The Home and DMH.



**Roxbury Village** provides temporary housing to youth ages 18 and up who are experiencing homelessness and transitioning to adulthood. Young adults at Roxbury Village are on the path to self-sufficiency and enrolled in part-time school/part-time employment or full-time employment. Our staff prepare residents for independent living, with services including physical, emotional and psychological wellness, employment services, educational support and life skills coaching, as well as access to health services and positive peer relationships.



**Liberty Village**, our 16-bed emergency shelter located in Roxbury, Mass., provides safe, short-term temporary housing for young adults ages 18 to 24 who are currently experiencing homelessness. Specialists in transition age youth services and trauma-informed care provide case management and life skills support, assisting guests with challenges such as acquiring ID, connecting with benefits, and searching for employment and long-term housing. Liberty Village is designed to be a welcoming, stable environment where young adults can utilize the resources of The Home to work on permanency goals and build a pathway to a promising independent life.



**Somerville Village** is an innovative program for young women ages 18 to 25 who are experiencing homelessness or at risk for homelessness and driven to pursue higher education. Somerville Village provides housing and a wide network of therapeutic, emotional and educational supports. Its staff of life coaches are the heart of this program. They meet with students on an ongoing basis to help them develop and achieve personal and academic goals, coordinate services within the community and encourage the young women at Somerville Village to build healthy adult and peer relationships and lifelong connections.



The Home's **Suffolk County Independent Living** Program supports youth involved with the Department of Youth Services (DYS) by providing independent housing at locations scattered throughout the MetroBoston area. Young adults receive intensive coaching around the development of life skills through case management services while they transition to learning to live independently. The Home is the first DYS Independent Living provider in Boston.



Our **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP)** provides a number of scattered site apartments for youth ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness in The City of Boston. This growing housing initiative is designed to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness by offering permanent, independent housing to those with the highest need in select communities. YHDP offers residents intensive coaching around the development of life skills and provides post-discharge support through case management services.



***“Knowing that I’m not alone is a great relief. I have support and guidance and I don’t have to struggle anymore.”***

**–A client at Liberty Village**

Contracted by The City of Boston, The Home’s **Boston Continuum of Care (CoC) Youth Council** consists of a core group of young adults, ages 18 to 24, who have current or previous experiences of homelessness and housing instability. Supported and facilitated by staff at The Home, the Boston CoC Youth Council serves as collective body that weighs in on Boston CoC funding priorities, decision-making processes and youth-specific initiatives, informing city strategy with their voice. The Boston CoC Youth Council elevates concerns and questions that stem from their personal experiences to the Mayor’s Office of Housing.



## **New Hampshire**

**Hillsborough Village** offers scattered site housing in the Manchester, New Hampshire area for young adults ages 18-21 who have aged out of state care. Hillsborough Village is designed to be an intermediate step between program-based units and independent living, offering young adults autonomy, as well as ongoing support, services and connections. These independent units are a seamless transition for the young person and promote better long-term outcomes, as residents have an opportunity to work on personal and professional goals, build life skills and save for a place of their own.



**Manchester Village – Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP)** brings the success of our Boston program to New Hampshire. This initiative, designed for young adults ages 18 to 24 who have aged out of state care, is designed to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness by offering temporary, independent housing to those with the highest need in select New Hampshire communities. Because the Manchester Village – YHDP Program offers multi-bedroom units, young families can occupy these apartments while they regain their footing and work towards permanent housing. The program also offers life coaching, counseling, parenting support and connections to community resources.



## **AREAS OF EXPERTISE:**

- ♥ Case management
- ♥ Motivational interviewing
- ♥ Life coach services
- ♥ Individual counseling
- ♥ Group therapy
- ♥ Employment and housing support
- ♥ Parenting support
- ♥ Interview preparation
- ♥ Connections to specialized services
- ♥ Connections to community resources
- ♥ Education support
- ♥ Lived experience
- ♥ Life skills support
- ♥ Assistance with meal preparation and planning

***“The staff feels like home; everyone is so welcoming. They take you out of an uncomfortable situation and make you very comfortable where you are.”***

**–A client at  
Manchester Village**



**TO MAKE A REFERRAL  
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT  
DIRECTORTAY@THEHOME.ORG  
OR CALL 866-240-HOME.**



# THE HOME



BETTER, BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR KIDS



For over 200 years, The Home for Little Wanderers has helped build stable lives and hopeful tomorrows for children who are abused, neglected or in at-risk circumstances.

Our 30+ community-based and residential programs serve thousands of children and their families across the Northeast. Many of these youth are victims of trauma, violence or shattered family lives. At The Home, we ensure their emotional, social, educational and physical well-being through a wide range of critical services. Because every child deserves happiness, and no child should go through life alone.



For more information about The Home's programs for children and families, visit [www.thehome.org](http://www.thehome.org).

THE HOME *for* LITTLE WANDERERS

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