

Why SleepOut?

FIRST AND FOREMOST:

What SleepOut IS–

An event that brings community members together in solidarity to raise our collective consciousness about the plight of youth experiencing homelessness, and raise funds to help stabilize and transform the lives of youth and young adults who are homeless.

What SleepOut IS NOT–

A celebration, a campout or a rally. NEVER indicate we are sleeping out to see what it “feels like” to be homeless. The intent of this event is not to replicate homelessness.



When referring to those we serve:

Use “people first” language. Instead of saying “homeless youth,” say “youth experiencing homelessness.”

I am Sleeping Out to:

Raise awareness of youth experiencing homelessness in NH.

Make sure our youth have access to the critical support they need.

Gain community interest and action in eradicating youth homelessness.

Ensure Waypoint staff can continue to show up for young people when no one else will.

Expand Waypoint’s vital services to reach youth throughout NH.



State of Homelessness in New Hampshire

- NH ranks 29/51, scoring a 47/100 in its investment towards preventing and ending youth homelessness on certain metrics and benchmarks across laws and policies, systems and the environment.
- It is estimated there are more than 700 young people in Manchester, ages 13-25, experiencing some form of Homelessness each year.
- In New Hampshire, we estimate that 15,000 youth will experience homelessness this year.

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The Waypoint
SleepOut 2024

WAYPOINT

Nationwide...

- 1 in 10 young adults ages 18–25, and at least 1 in 30 adolescents ages 13–17, experience some form of homelessness over the course of a year.
- There is a 120% increased risk for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness compared to youth who identify as heterosexual and cisgender.
- 33% of 18–25 year-olds, reporting homelessness, identify as Latine.
- Black youth have an 83% increased risk of experiencing homelessness compared to youth of other races or ethnicities.
- 79.5% of youth experiencing homelessness did not have the option to return home.

Many youth experiencing homelessness report:

- They did not plan their departure and had less than \$10 when they left home.
- Their parents told them to leave or knew they were leaving and didn't care.
- They are or have been involved in or experienced:
 - unhealthy, violent relationships
 - substance misuse
 - victimization
 - criminal activity
 - incarceration
 - sexual exploitation
 - health problems
 - barriers to education

We encourage you to use any of these facts and figures when customizing your appeals, emails, and social media posts, to inspire others to support SleepOut 2024.

Here are some examples:

Help me bring youth experiencing homelessness closer to home in NH.

I'm sleeping out to amplify the voices of youth experiencing homelessness. Would you help me raise funds and community consciousness about an invisible problem?

In a state index on youth homelessness, New Hampshire ranked in the bottom half of states, scoring a 47% in developing adequate systems, policies, and environments for aiding youth experiencing homelessness.

Waypoint's Youth & Young Adult Homelessness Program is working to raise New Hampshire's standing and bring youth experiencing homelessness in New Hampshire closer to home.

On March 29, I'm sleeping out to bring youth experiencing homelessness closer to home.

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Waypoint's Youth & Young Adult Homelessness Program

- Transformed the newly-purchased 3 Wallace Street in Rochester into a space where young people ages 12-23 are able to drop-in for services, support, and basic needs relief. It opened on October 31st, 2022. The Center features:
 - free laundry facilities
 - showers
 - a food pantry
 - a clothing closet
 - grab-and-go meals
 - computers
 - mail service
 - outside space
 - support groups
 - pro-social activities
- Opened a Concord drop-in center at Waypoint's Concord location during June 2023. The 103 North State Street building was renovated to serve a dual purpose as a Family Resource Center and a Youth Resource Center.
- Added a Street Outreach Program, which puts boots on the ground to locate and connect with homeless youth throughout Merrimack County. Program is funded completely with donations.
- Opened NH's first and only low-barrier emergency shelter for youth experiencing homelessness on Hanover Street in Manchester in 2022. The shelter currently:
 - Provides emergency overnight accommodation
 - Houses the Youth Resource (drop-in) Center for Manchester
 - Has 3 rent-controlled apartments
 - Expands Rapid Rehousing to include programs in Manchester, Merrimack County, and Strafford/Rockingham Counties
 - Offers Host Home Program: short-term (up to a year) housing for young adults, ages 18-25, in supported Host Homes
 - Provides Youth Navigation ensuring that staff support is available to assist young adults experiencing a crisis, 24-7, 365 days per year. Focus is on problem solving and connecting young adults to supports in a way that minimizes barriers