

Remember when you said someday you would give something back? Welcome to Someday! You can make a difference. Volunteer your time or make a contribution ... for kids sake.



Who We Serve:

We provide basic overnight shelter for youth aged 14 to 17 who are not eligible for other shelters due to factors such as being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, homelessness, and lack of parental consent.

Where We Are: Red Deer Youth & Volunteer Center

4633 49 St. Back Entrance

When We're Open: Everyday: 9pm—7am

How to Get In:

Ring the doorbell at the back entrance of the Youth & Volunteer Center on 49th Street. Press the intercom to talk to a Youth Worker.



Youth Winter Inn

<u>OPENING</u>

NOVEMBER 8th, 2013 to APRIL 30th, 2014





The Youth Winter Inn Youth Workers will provide you with a warm, safe place to stay. The Community Support worker will help you get where you need to be!

Red Deer Youth & Volunteer Centre YWI : 403-341-0604 Main Phone: 403-342-6500 Fax: 403-342-7734 Email: info@yvc.ca Website: www.yvc.ca

MYTHS & FACTS ABOUT HOMELESS YOUTH

The Idea

The Youth Winter Inn is a harm reduction strategy that provides basic overnight accommodation for youth aged 14 to 17 years, in Red Deer. Youth are provided with a safe and warm place to sleep and access to **Youth Workers** who can assist youth in working towards a more stable housing situation and refer them to existing community programs and services.

The Youth Winter Inn can accommodate up to seven youth a night. Youth are provided with a sleeping mat and blanket once admitted to the program. Their belongings will be safely secured upon admission and movable room dividers will allow for privacy. There are separate male and female washrooms available. The shelter is accessible all night.

The Community Support Worker will be available to connect youth to community resources, locate potential housing options and offer support, mentorship and be a positive adult in their lives.



Myth

They choose to be homeless.

Fact

Many homeless youth have suffered from physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, come from an unstable family environment that may have struggled with conflict, violence and substance abuse or have been kicked out. Many of these youth see living on the streets as safer than living where they were.

Myth

They are lazy and don't have jobs.

Fact

Homeless youth often don't have the experience, education or skills to get jobs that pay more than minimum wage. This is not enough to afford increasingly expensive rent.

Myth

They are mentally unstable.

Fact

It is estimated that about 30% of homeless youth have Major Clinical depression or post traumatic stress disorder but are not dangerous and can be self-sufficient and successful with the right support.

Myth

They are heavy drug users.

Fact

More than half have used alcohol or drugs but many use drugs to cope with exposure to traumatic events or as a substitute for expensive mental health medications.

Myth

They are dangerous.

Fact

Sometimes encounters with homeless youth end badly. However, this isn't common. Many homeless youth may engage in actions or offences that result from trying to survive living on the street (shoplifting, trespassing, prostitution, selling/using drugs). Homeless youth are often victims of violence and exploitation due to their vulnerability and desperation rather than perpetrators.

Other Resources in **Red Deer: Central Alberta Child & Family Services** Authority (CFSA) #108, 4920 51st St. (Provincial Building) 409-340-5400 Child & Youth Advocate 1-800-661-3446 **Kids Helpline** 1-800-668-6868 **49th Street Youth Shelter** 4633 49th St. 24 Hr Crisis Line: 403-341-3190 **Alberta Health Services: Community Addiction & Mental Health** #104. 4920 51 St. 403-340-5274 Central Alberta AIDS Network Society 4611 50 Ave. 403-346-8858 **Clothing Bank** 5005 Ross St. 403-347-6909 **Native Friendship Center** 4808 51st Ave. 403-340-0020 Street Ties 4928 51 St. 403-348-8406 Places to Eat: Potters Hands 4935 51 St. 403-309-4246 Loaves & Fishes 6002 54 Ave. 403-342-4722 Sacred Heart Church 5508 48A Ave. 403-346-2618 Adventist Centre 5014 49 St. 403-341-4470