



Host Families

What is an AHO Host Family?

Host families volunteer to assist a homeless youth ages 18 to 25, served by AHO, to stabilize and reconnect to the community. By offering a room in their home for 2 months or, up to 6 months allows a youth to begin a job (*if they aren't already working*) and focus on securing stable housing and working toward their educational and life goals. All families have the 24/7 support of AHO in this process.

Youth Characteristics

AHO youth come to AHO with certain characteristics resulting from their histories of neglect, abuse and abandonment. They may display learned helplessness; delayed emotional development; concentration and focus challenges; PTSD, anxiety and depression; and distrust of adults and mainstream institutions. They are not mentally ill or drug/alcohol addicted.

AHO Host Families

- To insure maximum success, all youth and host families are screened for their readiness and ability to follow AHO's guiding principles: Showing up, staying in communication and keeping their word.
- Prior to a match, Host Families work with AHO's Founder, and a youth, to set clear guidelines, communicate non-negotiables, chores and other expectations.
- To insure that host families and youth are properly matched, intensive 24/7 support is provided by AHO to keep all individuals involved feeling supported and on track.
- AHO Host Families provide temporary housing to a youth, and *are not paid*.
 - Youth however are expected to pay a small amount for rent - approximately \$50 per month - to show their appreciation.
 - Rent monies are typically returned to a youth when they leave.
- Host families work in liaison with AHO's Founder and/or adult allies to provide the consistency and "wraparound" community resources that youth need to make a successful transition.
- During their Host Family stay, youth work ongoing with AHO to practice the steps and life skills necessary for reaching their educational and life goals. In addition, they work with AHO toward securing an appropriate, affordable and stable living situation in the community.

Foster Families

AHO Host families and foster families are very different models. Foster families are paid by the government, and offer youth support ongoing for years. These families do not have the resources and a 24/7 support system like AHO, and youth are often abused in these families.

Interested in learning more?

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