

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is the RAFT?

The RAFT is a not-for-profit charitable organization, providing services to at-risk youth and communities in Niagara.

The RAFT operates a Resource Centre, Youth Shelter, Steps to Independent Living Program, and Community Outreach Initiatives across Niagara including Youth Reconnect, After School Matters and Summer Camp.

### What is the RAFT's Mission?

The RAFT contributes to the welfare of our Community by helping at risk youth become independent and self-sufficient, strengthening their emotional and social well being and acting as a referral source that reconnects youth to the community. We believe that working together, one step at a time, we can make a difference.

### What is the Youth Hostel?

The Youth Hostel is a 21 bed facility that provides support to successfully transition youth into independent living, with improved life skills. It is a safe and secure environment that focuses on helping participants to acquire the skills they need to live independently in the community.

### Where is the Youth Hostel Located?

17 Centre Street, St. Catharines Ontario.

### Who is the target population?

The program targets adolescent between the ages of 16-22 who are homeless.

### What is the referral process?

The Youth Hostel accepts referrals for homeless youth from the Region of Niagara and crown wards between the ages of 16-18 from Family & Children's Service.

### How can you access the Youth Hostel?

The Youth Hostel is open 24/7.

As needed, at risk youth from across Niagara can be transported to the Youth Hostel.

At discharge youth are reintegrated back to their home communities when possible.

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# Youth Hostel

## What are the Youth Hostel Goals?

- o Ensure youth access safe overnight accommodations, three nourishing meals a day and basic needs
- o Ensure youth in need gain access to the youth hostel within 8 hours
- o Develop individualized community reintegration plan within 7 days of admission
- o Create a safe and secure environment that is welcoming and inclusive
- o Encourage youth to become independent and self sufficient

## What are the Services Provided?

- o Accommodations and Meals
- o Steps to Independent Living Program
- o Case Management
- o One on One Mentoring
- o Social & Recreation Support
- o Personal Needs Allowance

## How is the Youth Hostel Staffed?

The Youth Hostel is staffed by trained youth care workers who graduated from college or university. The program is supervised by the Resource Coordinator, and is overseen by the Clinical Director.

## How is the Youth Hostel Funded?

The Youth Hostel is funded by the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Family and Children's Services the United Ways of Niagara, Local Business, Friends, Foundations and the Faith Community.

## How do I obtain additional information about how I can help?

For more information on the Youth Hostel, please visit our website at: [www.therafthelps.ca](http://www.therafthelps.ca)

## Contact Info

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