

FACTS ON HOST HOMES



We know from research & experience that the longer a young person is absolutely homeless or comes to rely on emergency services, the greater their entrenchment in the street youth lifestyle, the more estranged they become from family, community and services, the worse their health (mental health and addictions) becomes, and the greater likelihood of their experiencing crime and violence, as well as sexual and economic exploitation. Couchsurfing is not a stable or sustainable option.

Hosts Homes are a great alternative.

A Host home is a place where a youth experience **belonging**, a sense of family & community. The program helps youth to **overcome** both past and present challenges and to know there is help ready for them when they feel powerless. With other supports, a host home provides a consistent supportive atmosphere, encouraging a commitment to **maturity** and taking responsibility for oneself.



What about the young people?

- Youth are between the ages of 16-19 years
- Each one attends school or a training program
- Youth are eligible for financial assistance to help with room and board
- The program is voluntary. Youth are motivated.
- Youth are screened and **not** mandated by child welfare or the courts to be placed in a home.

In partnership with other supports in the community, youth are matched with suitable hosts, providing stability and support while the youth attends to personal growth and development.

*What Host Homes **are***

- All shapes and sizes: families or singles, young families or retired couples, long-term or short-term, houses or apartments...from all walks of life.
- Screened, trained, and provided ongoing support.

They provide an alternative so that each youth can experience a safe, supportive and nurturing home, with a host that walks alongside, as they grow into maturity.

*What Host Homes **are not***

- Perfect - no one has it entirely together!
- Foster homes - you are not re-parenting the youth
- Mandatory– youth have the choice

Interested mature individuals and couples can apply through the Portal Youth Outreach Association:

Email: susan@portayouth.ca | Phone: 902-365-3773 | online @ www.portalyouth.ca/host-homes

Address: **The Portal**, #6– 440 Main Street, Kentville, NS, B4N 1K8

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