



Every Kid  
Matters .



360°  
kids

Surrounding kids  
in crisis with care

Case For  
Support



# Think youth homelessness isn't a problem in York Region?


Jessica

“

I really can't remember the last time I felt safe and cared for in my own home. Before I moved here, my life was one of chaos, couch surfing, sadness, fear, uncertainty, and failure. I would never have been able to do any of this without the care and patience of all the wonderful staff at 360°kids. Knowing that I could come home and have a place to rest helped me get and keep a full-time job, and that job helped me to feel like an accepted member of my family and a respected member of my community. It was helpful and important to feel supported in doing things to get better and healthier. I am a very different person than when I first moved here and am excited to see what the future has in store.

## Where do you sleep when you have nowhere to go?

If they're lucky enough to beat the waitlist, youth experiencing homelessness in York Region can secure one of 32 emergency beds at either Sutton or 360°kids. Or they can take transit south to one of 14 youth shelters in downtown Toronto, where they are removed from their comfort zone, alone and at added risk for exploitation and harm. Still others camp outside or sleep in cars or in abandoned buildings throughout the region.



# Think again.

“

In the morning at Home Base, we'll sometimes find a kid sleeping at the door. We'll offer him a meal, a shower, clean clothes, someone to talk to, and the chance to find a job and a place to live.

Bonnie Harkness,  
Chief Operating Officer,  
360°kids

Across York Region, countless youth face homelessness—sleeping on friends' couches, in cars, church basements, or even parks. They don't always fit the image of homelessness; they look like any other kid. Some may not be on the streets, and their situation might last just a few nights, but they are still without a place to call home. These young people deserve our attention and support. They are kids from every neighborhood, class, and culture. They may be depressed, in an abusive relationship, have addictions, be failing at school, or be struggling with a mental illness. They may be from middle-class homes and have every financial opportunity to succeed in life. Homelessness doesn't discriminate. And it's extraordinarily difficult to measure.

A recent snapshot estimated the number of homeless Canadians at about 150,000, including 65,000 young people, but the real number might be as much as twice that. In York Region, experts estimate at least 150 to 300 youth between the ages of 13 and 24 are homeless every night, living in shelters, couch-surfing, or staying with friends. Another 32,000 local children are living in low-income households, where they and their families are just one catastrophic event—one job loss, one failed relationship, one landlord disagreement—away from being homeless.

The fact is, youth homelessness is a real problem in York Region, and we all need to do something about it.





Youth homelessness is a growing concern in York Region, Ontario, impacting vulnerable individuals aged 13 to 24. Youth make up about 14% of the region's homeless population, highlighting the pressing need for targeted support and intervention. Many of these young individuals face complex challenges, including family breakdowns, experiences of abuse or neglect, mental health struggles, and barriers to education or employment.

The lack of affordable housing exacerbates their situation, often leaving them without safe or stable living arrangements. These challenges create a cycle of instability and vulnerability, making it difficult for youth to access the resources they need to transition out of homelessness. Without proper support systems, many face increased risks of exploitation, substance use, and long-term hardship, emphasizing the critical need for community-based solutions.

## Youth Homelessness: Key Facts

▶ 14%

Homeless population in York Region were youth aged 16-24

▶ 27%

Homeless youth in York Region identify as LGBTQ2S+.

▶ 30.6

Homeless youth identify as Indigenous

▶ 58%

Homeless youth face cognitive or intellectual challenges



We believe that Every Kid Matters, and deserves to feel safe, supported and loved.

## Our Work To Help Kids

360°kids' mission is to help isolated and unhoused youth in our community overcome adversity and crisis, providing them with the resources and support needed to transition into a state of safety, stability, and well-being. Through a holistic approach, we work around our four key pillars: Housing, Health and Well-Being, Education, and Employment, offering comprehensive programs designed to address the unique challenges faced by unhoused youth.

From emergency shelters and transitional housing to mental health counseling, educational support, and employment readiness programs, we ensure youth have access to the tools and opportunities needed to rebuild their lives. Last year, we proudly supported over 3,102 youth through these impactful programs, empowering them to achieve stability and take steps toward a brighter, more secure future. Our dedicated team remains committed to helping every youth reach their full potential while fostering a stronger, more inclusive community.



## You can be the difference. Improving and Expanding Supports

Many homeless youth are scared, feel alone, and lack the confidence that comes with growing up in a caring environment. But when a young person is supported to find housing, family and community connections, life skills, and employment, they are less likely to remain homeless in the future and require social assistance.

**Your support enables 360°kids to play an important role at a critical turning point in young peoples' lives**



# Our Impact

## Year in Review



### Housing

**253** youth received direct housing support

**1176** youth served at the Home Base Drop-In Centre

**19134** bed nights provided to youth



### Health and Well-Being

**11936** food supports and meals provided

**206** youth received counselling support

**76%** of youth improved their overall well-being

# 3102 youth served across York Region

## Employment



**73%**

of youth in employment programs gained employment or returned to school

**410**

youth participated on our employment programs

**1132**

formal employment workshops

## Education



**13**

youth achieved high school diplomas through iGrad program

**15**

youth received scholarshipst

**35**

youth participated in iGrad



# The Four Pillars of 360°kids

## 4 Pillars of Prevention



### Housing

Ensuring youth have access to a variety of housing options available to them.



### Employment

Ensuring youth have employment supports to help secure and maintain employment.



### Education

Helping youth achieve success in their educational pursuits.



### Health and Well-Being

Ensuring wraparound supports are available to help youth achieve greater independence.

## Our Programs:

### Housing

- Nightstop
- Connections
- Emergency Housing
- Supportive Transitional Apartments for Youth (STAY)
- SHINE Housing Program
- Transitions
- Youth Housing and Support Worker
- Hope Program

### Employment

- Base 4 Success (B4S)
- Specialized Training for Employment Program (STEP)
- Youth Success Strategy (YSS)
- Supporting Students to Work (SSW)
- Newmarket Youth Hub

### Education

- iGrad

### Health & Wellbeing

- Family & Natural Supports (FNS)
- Counseling
- Home Base Youth Drop-In Centre
- YOUTHrive
- Leadership Engagement Gang Intervention Team (LEGIT)
- Provincial Youth Outreach Workers
- Aftercare and Transitional Support
- York Region Pop-up

360°kids is dedicated to supporting unhoused youth through programs structured around four key pillars: Housing, Health & Well-Being, Education, and Employment.

## Housing

We offer a spectrum of housing solutions to address the diverse needs of youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Our services include emergency housing, such as Connections—the only emergency housing in southern York Region for homeless youth—and Nightstop, which provides same-day emergency housing by placing youth with approved host volunteers. For longer-term needs, we provide transitional housing options like the Supportive Transitional Apartments for Youth (STAY) program, which assists youth in building life skills for future independence, Transitions, and the SHINE Housing Program, offering supportive housing for youth aged 14-19 facing housing crises.

## Health & Well-Being

Our health and well-being initiatives focus on the holistic development of youth, ensuring they have access to essential services that promote mental, emotional, and physical health. Programs like YOUTHrive offer inclusive recreation and mentorship within housing cooperatives, while our counseling services help youth navigate personal challenges. The Aftercare and Transitional Support program assists youth aging out of care with housing, education, and life skills. Our dedicated Prevention Team—formed by combining the Nightstop and Family & Natural Supports programs—focuses on diverting youth from homelessness whenever possible. By engaging youth early, completing diversion assessments, and reconnecting them with family or natural supports, we aim to prevent shelter entry and reduce instances of couch surfing or street homelessness.

## Employment

We provide a range of employment programs designed to equip youth with the skills and experience necessary to enter the workforce confidently. Our Base 4 Success (B4S) program is a 12-week paid employment initiative that helps participants overcome barriers to employment. Additionally, the Specialized Training for Employment Program (STEP) focuses on youth facing mental health challenges, offering tailored support to prepare them for the job market. These programs, among others, aim to foster independence and self-sufficiency among youth.

## Education

Recognizing the importance of education in breaking the cycle of homelessness, our iGrad program, in partnership with the York Region District School Board, offers an opportunity for youth to earn and complete their high school credits in a supportive environment. This flexible, online learning is tailored to meet the unique needs of each participant, helping them achieve their educational goals and improve future employment prospects.

# Shelter, Hope and Support..

## Empowering youth with support and opportunities

The Youth Hub operated by 360°kids, also known as the Home Base Youth Drop-In Centre, is a vital resource located in Richmond Hill, dedicated to supporting youth aged 13 to 26. Open seven days a week, the hub provides a safe and welcoming environment where youth can access a wide range of services designed to foster independence, stability, and well-being. By addressing immediate needs and offering long-term solutions, the Youth Hub plays a crucial role in helping at-risk youth transition from crisis to stability.

The hub offers emergency housing, including its unique Nightstop program, which provides same-day shelter by placing youth with approved host volunteers. In addition to housing, the centre delivers vital services such as job search assistance, resume building, and access to employment programs like Base 4 Success (B4S). Youth can also receive professional counselling to address personal challenges, mental health concerns, and family issues, as well as support with housing searches and referrals to 360°kids' housing programs.



Some youth come through our doors carrying everything they own in a backpack and a world of worry on their shoulders. What we offer here is more than just a warm space—it's connection, trust, and a belief that things can get better. That's what keeps me coming back every day.

360°kids Youth Hub Manager

## Empowering Independence

Beyond these critical services, the Youth Hub focuses on teaching life skills such as financial literacy, cooking, and time management, ensuring youth are equipped to live independently. The hub also provides access to basic necessities like food, clothing, showers, and hygiene supplies, while offering recreational activities to promote social interaction and physical health. For those seeking educational opportunities, the center supports alternative education programs like iGrad, which allows youth to earn high school credits in a flexible learning environment.

## Transforming Lives and Strengthening Communities

Serving over 150 youth each month, the 360°kids Youth Hub addresses pressing issues such as homelessness, food insecurity, unemployment, and mental health challenges. Through its holistic approach and comprehensive suite of programs, the hub empowers youth to build brighter futures and contributes to the well-being of the community as a whole. It is a cornerstone of 360°kids' mission to support and uplift unhoused youth, offering them hope, opportunity, and a path toward independence.

Read on to find out how you can help, or go to [360kids.ca](https://360kids.ca)





# Our Strategic Plan

**VALUES:**  
Compassion, Integrity,  
Accountability, Dignity.



**MISSION:**  
To prevent homelessness by helping youth at risk or in crisis transition to a state of safety and stability

**VISION:**  
Every kid has access to a safe home.

## Strategic Goals for Sustainable Impact

Deliver more services upstream, that are responsive to youth and family needs and are equity-informed.

Grow and sustain our team to ensure responsive service delivery that is equity informed.

Strengthen our community connections through broader outreach, partnerships and communication initiatives that demonstrate the impact of our work.

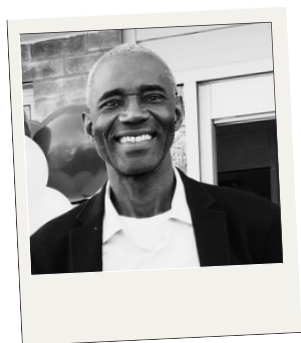


# Message from Our Chief Executive Officer

At 360°kids, we believe young people possess incredible potential, limited only by the opportunities available to them. In 2023, we launched our 3-year Strategic Plan, focused on preventing homelessness—a goal more urgent than ever as rising costs and housing challenges strain families. Prevention matters because it reduces trauma and ensures brighter futures for our youth.

A key pillar of our plan is ensuring programs and services are responsive to the needs and voices of young people. Over the past year, we've introduced initiatives like the Family & Natural Supports program, deepened our commitment to equity, and expanded youth engagement with dedicated staff. We've also strengthened our community connections through social media growth, corporate partnerships, and increased volunteer involvement.

Your support is vital to achieving our mission. Together, we can break the cycle of homelessness and create a community where every young person has the opportunity to thrive. Thank you for believing in our shared vision.



*Clovis Grant*

Clovis Grant  
CEO  
360°kids



## Ways to give

360°kids is a registered charity in Canada. You can help support our mission with either one-time contributions or pledged gifts, including:

- Cash or checks
- Appreciated securities, stocks, and bonds
- Bequests
- Life insurance policies
- Gifts-in-kind
- Monthly donations

You can donate online at [www.360kids.ca](http://www.360kids.ca)

[Please contact us to learn more:](#)

[360kids.ca/contact](http://360kids.ca/contact)

## Thank You!






# Andrea

“

My world came crashing down when my parents kicked me out of the house at age 17. I was rebellious, naïve, and destructive, and I was struggling with depression, an eating disorder, and an abusive boyfriend. The first night I spent in a friend's car. It was December — and cold. The next few nights, I slept in Markham-Stouffville Hospital's meditation room. I was afraid I'd have to drop out of high school to work until my vice principal presented me with an unbelievable solution called 360°kids. They offered me a home, nutritious meals, and a structured and safe environment that felt like home.

**Support. Inspire. Overcome.**



It's not about addressing homelessness as usual. It's about helping young people move into adulthood in a way that's really good for them, good for their families, and good for the community, and the 360°kids model is built on that idea.

Dr. Stephen Gaetz,  
Professor, York University  
President, Hub  
Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH)

Every Kid Matters .

**DONATE NOW** 



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**York Region**