

Our Mission

We create communities, rooted in belonging, for youth experiencing instability to own their future. Our vision is for a society where all youth have support, stable housing, and belonging.

We value **authenticity, inclusion, community, and agency.**

Drop-In Resources


Private Showers
Basic Hygiene Items
Laundry Services
Meals
Clothing Essentials
Vital Document Recovery
Telehealth Microsuite
Mental Health Support
Employment Resources
Education Resources
Housing Crisis Support

Housing Resources

- ▶ One to two mentors live next to three to four youth in a duplex.
- ▶ Youth sign leases to foster ownership and pay \$300 per month for rent.
- ▶ Day to day interactions with mentors and housemates and weekly house dinners.
- ▶ Establishment of traditions for birthday celebrations and holidays.
- ▶ Secure reliable transportation.

What We Know

On any given night, over **200 youth** are sleeping outside or in emergency shelters, which is the highest number we have seen in our community. This number doesn't fully encapsulate the actual problem. It does not include those couch surfing, moving from place to place, or those fleeing neglect and abuse.



Who We See



600 Unique Youth in our Drop-In Center annually



Capacity to house 35 youth



79 Youth housed over the years

Concerning Data

Of youth we see, there is an over-representation of those who are **People of Color (78%)** and yet BIPOC only make up **40%** of Grand Rapids' population.

Similarly, Youth who are **LGBTQ+** represent **37%** of the youth we see and yet represent only **~6%** of the general population.

Action Steps and Milestones

While we love celebrating the big milestones - job placement, secured housing, reliable transportation - we also celebrate the baby steps to get there. When facing systemic oppression, lack of familial support, past or ongoing trauma - these small action steps are just as worthy of acknowledgment.

2,243

unique members of AYA Youth Collective over the years.

8,395

action steps taken with youth to equip and enable them to build their own future.

90%

of alumni have achieved stability through continued education, employment and housing.

Get Involved

Become a monthly donor

Donate essential supplies for our drop-in or housing services

Cook or Order a meal for our youth at drop-in

Tell your family and friends the work of AYA Youth Collective

Our Goals



Increase from **35 units** to **70 units** (bedrooms)



Increase capacity at Drop-In Center to **700** youth **per year**.



Increase Monthly Donors to **500** over the next **5 years**

Contact Us

320 State Street SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-406-3945
www.ayayouth.org

Engage With Us Online



@AYAYouthCollective



info@ayayouth.com



@AYAYouthCollective



AYA Youth Collective