



The logo for Youth Haven, featuring a stylized white figure with arms raised in a 'Y' shape, set against a dark blue background.  
**Youth Haven**

*Home, Hope & Healing*



# ABOUT YOUTH HAVEN



Founded in 1972, Youth Haven was established to fulfill an immediate need for emergency shelter for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. A local group of caring individuals worked together with law enforcement and various community partners to create a safe space for children in need.

Now in continuous operation for over 50 years, Youth Haven meets the growing needs of our community by providing transformational programs to youth in crisis. Our 18.5-acre campus is home to five cottages providing 70 youth with around-the-clock care. Our beautiful and serene campus offers a safe place for children and teens,

ages 10 - 20, to begin the healing process. Our robust programming is designed to create normalcy and preparation for a more permanent placement and includes therapeutic program from improv to art therapy and organized outdoor activities, enrichment programs, community outings, life-skills classes, and individual and group counseling.

Children and teens come to Youth Haven by referral from our many community partners, including the Department of Children & Families, Collier County Public Schools, and Collier County Sheriff's Office. Youth Haven provides much more than a temporary shelter; we provide youth with the resources – and the opportunity – they need to be able to make transformational change.

***Youth Haven is an immediate lifeline of safety, love and compassion for innocent children in crisis and the first step in a long journey back to trust, confidence and joy.***





# — by the — **NUMBERS**

— *since* —  
**1972**

In response to a community request, Youth Haven first opened its doors to children in 1972, and has since provided continuous care on a 18.5-acre therapeutic campus in Naples, Florida.

**24/7**  
— *care* —

Children & teens who are abused, neglected, abandoned or are homeless come to Youth Haven and receive 24-hour care. They are severely traumatized and in crisis. Youth Haven provides home, hope and healing to these children & teens in need.

**270**  
— *days* —

The average stay is 270 days before being placed in a home; however, children can remain at Youth Haven for much longer depending upon their situation.

**70**  
— *beds* —

Currently, up to 70 youth can reside on campus. Due to the growing need in our community, there is often a waitlist for Youth Haven's services.

— *est.* —  
**2014**

Youth Haven developed the Homeless Teen and Transitional Living Program (HTTLP) in 2014, dedicated to serving homeless teens age 16 - 21.

— *est.* —  
**2023**

Completion of an intake cottage providing a space for children with communicable diseases to isolate, ensuring health and safety for the entire campus.



# FOSTER CARE GROUP HOMES



*Every child deserves a childhood*

Youth Haven's emergency shelters are Collier County's only residential option for children and teen ages 10 -18. Our cottages provide a home, instill hope and create a safe place to help children in the foster care system begin to heal. Children are placed in our temporary care by the State through different foster care agencies until a more permanent placement can be found. Our shelters house SWFL's youngest victims of abuse, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, without exception. The children stay in our care for an average of 270 days (but sometimes much longer) depending upon their age and circumstances. Upon leaving, children are reunified with their parents, placed by the State with a safe relative or a foster home.

During their stay at Youth Haven, children receive the utmost comprehensive care from the most basic of needs including nutritious meals, clothing, personal care items, and educational support to more advanced medical, mental health and dental care all in a spacious, home-like environment. Our secluded campus affords the children not only a newfound sense of comfort and security but also many opportunities to play and be carefree. They engage in many outdoor activities including a myriad of sports, bicycling, gardening, and nature exploration. The children attend public school (ideally children remain in the same school regardless of zoning) and participate in a wide variety of both on and off campus recreational, cultural and social activities. Therapeutic services and enrichment activities raise self-esteem and build coping skills in an accepting and empowering manner.





# HOMELESS TEEN GROUP HOME



## *More than just a group home*

Youth Haven's Transitional Living Cottage, **Rob's Group Home**, provides comprehensive 24-hour care, with a longer average length of stay for homeless unaccompanied youth ages 16 to 21. Rob's Group home has 16 beds; 9 beds in the girl's wing and 7 beds in the boy's wing. The building design is an open floor concept in which the main common areas look like a home where all the residents and staff can gather to interact like a family unit, prep and have meals together, watch television or work on projects. Rob's Group Home offers homeless teens a safe and caring environment, a place to sleep, access to intensive case management, educational support, nutritious meals, and medical and mental health services. The program focuses on high school graduation, job readiness, preparing for higher education, and strengthening community connections. The program has a 90% success rate.

Rob's Group Home is a voluntary residential program with an extensive screening process. Referrals are accepted from our community partners including local school guidance counselors, social workers, Youth Relations Deputies and the Juveniles at Risk program. We provide structured case management with the expectation of working toward self-sufficiency. Goals are set at intake and we have a weekly case review to monitor the progress of each goal and address any potential issues.

These unaccompanied teens have been living in the shadows for many years and our community has lacked much needed services to serve this population. These invisible teens have been neglected, abused, locked out, living on the street or couch surfing. Luckily, Youth Haven worked with our community partners to address the need. Rob's is financed in part by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Collier County Community and Human Services Division, NCEF, and the Schoen Foundation.



# HOMELESS TEEN TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM



The Homeless Teen & Transitional Living Program (HTTLP) continues to be the only program in Collier County serving youth ages 16 to 21 who are experiencing homelessness. The Program's success is due in part to the individualized and extensive care each teen receives while residing at Rob's Group Home. From day one, Case Managers and Mentors start developing a trusting and caring relationship with the youth and become the caring parents tending to their needs, identifying barriers and building on their strengths, developing both short and long-term goals related to education, employment, and financial stability, emotional, social, physical and mental health. The youth respond positively to the home like structure and loving environment that is provided at Rob's Group Home.

After a teen exits the program, we continue to provide after care by sending care packages and assisting the teens in their living environment. We help the teens connect with service providers in the area and assist with any school and/or employment barriers.



The HTTLP program has developed great relationships with local colleges and technical schools in order to continue to provide support and guidance to our teens.

Due to the proven success our homeless youth have had, the program has been able to integrate youth from foster care and extended foster care system.



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A YOUTH HAVEN CHILD & TEEN.

*Youth Haven provides all the necessary care for children and teens in an enriching home-like environment.*

*Good morning!*

**5:00 AM - 6:00 AM**

Alarms ring and we wake up the teens and children. We begin early because some of our kids really like their sleep!

*Time to start the day!*

**6:00 AM - 8:30 AM**

With 70 hungry kids and teens, breakfast is a frenzy of cooking and eating before the busses arrive!



*Bedtime is busy!*

**8:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

Bedtime is just as frenzied as breakfast – we have lots of showers, teeth brushing, etc... Lights out!

**4:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

We finish up homework, have group meetings, eat dinner, play outside, and make sure all of our children and teens are ready for the next day.

**8:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

Our children and teens see doctors, dentists, therapists, tutors, and have after school activities. We use this 'quiet' time to arrange all of these appointments!

*Homework, play and dinner...*

**1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Hungry and excited children and teens are greeted at the bus stop and head to the after school hub for a snack and homework

*The Youth Haven team stays busy...*



# SUCCESS STORIES



## *Making a difference...*

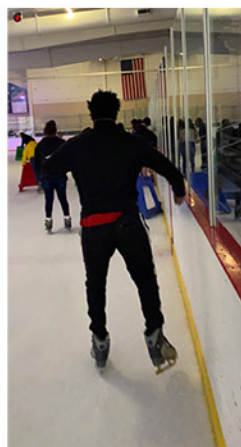
**Below are just a few examples of how Youth Haven has helped change the lives of abused, abandoned, neglected and homeless children and teens in the Southwest Florida community. Names changed to protect privacy.**

David's\* school counselor referred him to Youth Haven because she was concerned about his instability and lack of a safe place to stay. His family, which consisted of a mother, three older brothers, and one younger brother, had a long history of homelessness and criminal activity and his counselor was afraid David would be forced into the same lifestyle if he didn't get help. David joined our community at Rob's Group Home and was fearful; he was accustomed to every adult in his life lying to him, using him and letting him down. He was very reserved and did not communicate well; he had a hard time opening up and trusting not only Youth Haven staff, but the other teen residents. David would often say "My home is where my mom and family is, even if that's in the streets." Our team continued to provide daily doses of positive parental interaction and reinforcement. Little by little, he started opening up and trusting again. With the help of intensive case management, David was able to improve his grades significantly, all while playing sports and working two part-time jobs. He graduated from high school in June 2020 and was accepted to a prestigious academy to continue his education and football training. During his admission, David looked at the Youth Haven director and said ***"I realize I'm one of the lucky ones. Without Youth Haven and Rob's, I would be in jail or dead. I'll make you all proud, I promise."***

Suzie\* and her two younger brothers, Jesse\* and Mike\*, were admitted to Youth Haven's foster care group home due to their mother's substance abuse. Suzie stated in her first counseling session, ***"I was relieved when I found out my brothers could stay with me at Youth Haven and we wouldn't be separated."*** While they were happy to be together; initially, the children struggled. Due to their past experiences, they were scared, emotional and guarded. Our therapy program, art program, therapy dogs, and numerous engagement activities on our therapeutic campus helped the siblings significantly. Our staff was consistent, kind and always showed that they cared. Soon, Suzie, Jesse and Mike all began to open up and allowed themselves to trust once again.

Marcia\*, the youngest of five siblings, spent most of her life moving from house to house and shelter to shelter, living in empty homes without any utilities and with family piled into one bedroom. Every living situation was promised to be a "temporary" inconvenience, however, her mother was unable to achieve stability. Marcia often times lived with acquaintances of the family when her mother couldn't find a place for them all to stay together. In one of these temporary homes, she was told her hair was 'too kinky' and was held down while all of her hair was cut off. Although traumatizing, this experience inspired Marcia to learn more about her natural hair and how to care for it. Her school counselor recognized the trouble Marcia was in and told her about a program at Youth Haven for homeless teens. While she was worried about being labeled "homeless" she decided to see what the program was about and after her tour decided to take advantage of the opportunity to change her life. The Homeless Teen program at Youth Haven is helping her work toward her goals of continuing her education, helping make natural hair wigs for child cancer survivors and owning her own business, breaking the cycle of homelessness. She even recently purchased her own vehicle! As Marcia shared, ***"I'm in the process of making my dreams a reality."***







# CONTACT YOUTH HAVEN



## OUR MISSION

To provide Home, Hope & Healing to the abused and neglected children and teens in Southwest Florida

## OUR VISION

A bright future for every child and teen in congregate care



FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/YouthHavenSWFL>

INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/youthhaven>

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/YouthHavenSWFL>

LINKEDIN: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/youthhavenswfl>

*Connect with*



### YOUTH HAVEN INFO

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### INTERESTED IN A SPEAKER/TOUR?

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