



Youth Development Outcomes

Below is a “snapshot” of Youth Services’ River House, Youth Shelter in Bellows Falls for the reporting period of January 2015 - June 2015 which presents a sample of our very positive outcomes:

During this reporting period Youth Services’ shelter has provided housing for 20 unduplicated individuals, 6 of whom were infants or young children of shelter residents. The model combines transitional housing with intense therapeutic case management with the goals of achieving safe, affordable housing, life skills, employment and access to health care.

Each youth in the shelter is provided case management and completes a plan of care with specific goals and an outline to achieving those goals. The youth meet with their case manager at least once a week to work on these goals and the case manager assesses progress as goals are achieved. The plan of care is reassessed every 6 months or sooner as goals are met.

All Plans of Care include a housing goal of getting their own place, an employment goal, and at least one other life skill goal such as education, health and well-being, getting a driver’s license, or learning a new skill. Of the 14 youth who have been in the shelter, all 14 have received case management services and have met regularly with their case manager. Of the 14 who have been in the shelter, 8 have found housing. Of the 6 children in the shelter with their parent(s), all 5 have received childcare in state subsidized sites and 1 is pending.

All youth in the shelter also must complete 25 hours of productive time each week including employment and job skill development, medical care, schooling, volunteering, weekly chores, study time, childcare, life skills, and community activities and/or clubs. Of the 14 youth who have been in the shelter, all 14 maintained weekly productive hours.

Of the 11 residents who entered the shelter with no income, 10 gained income, 7 of those through earned income as opposed to public benefit programs. Of the 6 clients who entered the program as high school dropouts, 5 enrolled in Vermont Adult Learning Programs, with one resident earned his high school diploma while living at the shelter. Two youths are currently enrolled in high school and 2 youth have plans to begin taking classes at Vermont Adult Learning in the fall of 2015.

- All residents left the program with health insurance, which benefits not only their overall health, but also their credit score, essential in finding jobs and housing (as medical bills are often a source of bad history for our clients).
- 5 left the program and found permanent housing through subsidized programs or affordable housing options and 3 found housing with family members.
- 9 have found employment with 2 maintaining employment for over 6 months and 2 maintaining employment for 12 months.