



Washington County School District

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SUPERINTENDENT LARRY G. BERGESON, M.ED.

September 19, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mike Carr. I am the homeless liaison for the Washington County School District in St. George, Utah. I have prepared a few statistics for you to look at as you consider the decision whether to provide land for the building of a Youth Shelter home for **unaccompanied homeless youth** and others from our county and surrounding counties.

An **unaccompanied homeless youth/minor** is a student 18 years old or under (still registered in school) that is living in a situation **without a parent or legal guardian**. A student is considered homeless if he/she lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. According to the definitions in the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act**, examples would be: *living with another family, living in a hotel/motel, in a shelter, a car, a park, or public place, or a place without adequate facilities (running water, heat, electricity).*

Here are some McKinney-Vento statistics from the WCSD over the past 4 years:

Cumulative numbers (totals for the complete year), all categories combined:

June 2014 = 1012 students qualified as homeless
June 2015 = 1046 students qualified as homeless
June 2016 = 991 students qualified as homeless *Oct. count = 886 Nov. count = 929
June 2017 = 1163 students qualified as homeless

Unaccompanied homeless youth/minor numbers:

June 2017 = 97 cumulative (total students for the complete year)
June 2017 = 67 students enrolled the last day of school
30 students went somewhere else---we are not sure if they moved or dropped out

** This figure is 2.8% of total students (31,138) in the Washington County School District.*

The 2016-2017 school year was the first year I intentionally started keeping track of the unaccompanied homeless youth, particularly in the 6th -12th grades. I believe our numbers are low because of students or parents not voluntarily reporting about their living situations as well as youth who are not even enrolled in school. Part of the Youth Shelter Home purpose will be to provide an outreach program and drop in center for homeless minors, so they will develop enough trust to start attending school again.

I appreciate your time and consideration in meeting with us today.

Michael K. Carr, MS
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ST. GEORGE

Southern Utah's home for vulnerable and homeless youth

Mission

Youth Futures provides safe shelter, collaborative resources, respectful guidance and diverse support to homeless, unaccompanied, runaway and at-risk youth in Northern and Southern Utah.

Planned Programs and Services

Youth Futures creates a world where runaway and homeless youth (RHY) can access a safe and affirming place to call home and get their lives back on track. We connect each youth, on an individual basis, with resources to build the skills that are needed to ensure a healthy future. RHY are guided in a supportive, loving and productive way, so as to encourage their own personal path for their future. Planned Programs include:

- **RESIDENTIAL SHELTER:** 15-20 temporary overnight shelter beds for youth ages 12-17, including intensive case management, therapy, life skills classes and connections to educational and community resources to help youth become re-united with family or become more resilient and self-sufficient
- **TRANSITIONAL SHELTER:** 10-15 transitional beds for young adults ages 18-20, including life skills classes, case management and connections to housing and employment resources to assist youth in a healthy transition to adulthood.
- **DAYTIME SERVICES:** case management, meals, resource room supplies and referrals to community resources for youth not accessing shelter services
- **STREET OUTREACH:** weekly efforts in collaboration with community partners to build trust and rapport with youth, provide food and hygiene kits and information about services

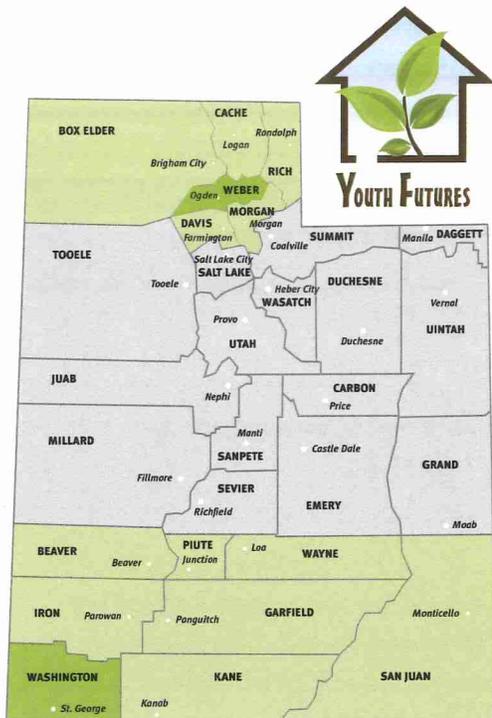
Planned Hours of Operations

Shelter: 24 hours per day, 7 days per week

Daytime Services: 6:30a to 8p, 7 days per week

Project Timeline

Aug 2017-Jan 2019	Capital campaign to raise funds for land acquisition, building construction, staffing and program operations costs (total goal to be determined by Oct 31, 2017)
Sep-Nov 2017	Identify and begin acquisition of land for future 10,000 sq.ft. site located close to youth service providers and along transportation routes
Oct-Dec 2017	Identify location for interim residential shelter home with at least 10 beds to serve youth ages 12-17 and non-emancipated 18 year olds
Mar-Apr 2018	Open interim shelter home
Jul 2018-Jan 2019	Construction of new facility
Feb 2019	Youth Futures-St. George facility opens its doors



Need for Homeless Youth Shelters

An estimated 5,000 youth in Utah experience homelessness for at least one night a year. It is critically important to reach out to this population because RHY are at a higher risk of mental health problems, physical abuse, substance abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking, suicide attempts and death. The National Alliance to End Homelessness reports that unaccompanied children and youth are the second highest group, behind veterans, to become chronically homeless. Studies also show that:

- 1 in 7 young people between the ages of 10-18 will run away
- 75% of RHY are female
- Estimated number of pregnant RHY girls are between 6-22%
- Between 20-40% of RHY identify as LGBTQ
- 46% of RHY reported physical abuse
- 38% of RHY reported emotional abuse
- 17% of RHY reported being forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member
- 75% of RHY have dropped out or will drop out of school

Programming

Youth Futures' purpose is to provide unaccompanied, runaway and homeless youth with a safe and nurturing environment where they can develop the needed skills to become active, healthy, successful members of our future world. Our overarching goal is to eliminate the need for another youth to sleep on the streets. We employ a "Continuum of Care" cycle framework to meet the needs of homeless youth in a trauma-informed, youth-centered model within the program areas of overnight shelter, daytime drop-in services and street outreach.



- **Outreach** includes educating child welfare and youth service providers about Youth Futures' services, building rapport with youth living on the streets or at risk of being homeless and being on the National Safe Place registry.
- **Crisis response** includes an immediate need and suicide assessment, access to basic necessities (shelter, food, clothing) and a crisis hotline.
- **Intervention** includes intensive case management, connections to community resources, daytime drop-in services, life-skills classes and physical and/or mental health care.
- **Aftercare** is primarily provided to youth who access temporary shelter and includes follow-up case management and ongoing drop-in services.

Program Statistics

Youth Futures, founded by Kristen Mitchell and Scott Catuccio in 2012, opened Utah's first Residential Support Temporary Youth Shelter in Ogden, Utah on February 20, 2015. Since that time, the Ogden Shelter Home has:

- **Sheltered 126 youth**, with over 5,016 shelter nights for an average of 40 days each
- Served 18,568 meals (3 meals and 2 snacks per day are provided)
- Opened resource room 1,804 times for basic necessities (clothing, hygiene items, survival gear, etc.)
- Provided drop-in services 1,529 times (meals, showers, laundry facilities, therapy, case management, etc.)
- Conducted more than 1,050 hours of street outreach

Rev. 9.18.17

PROPOSED YOUTH FUTURES SITE ST. GEORGE, UTAH

