

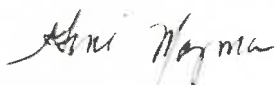
Dear Reader,

It's the time of year when we celebrate the achievements of young people as they look forward to the next step of adulthood. **Hats off to ALL of the graduates**, but especially those who went to school hungry, knowing their clothes were not clean, and unsure of where they would be sleeping that night. **Hats off to the educators** who identified these young people and compassionately mentored them to graduate.

Many would agree that education is a basic right in America and a key indicator of future financial independence. Often, despite the vigilance of teachers and school administrators, young people drop out. Not because of lack of interest but simply because it's too difficult when you don't have a stable place to live.

Hats off to you, our supporters, who are removing obstacles for those that are homeless in high school. Most importantly, **hats off** for recognizing their extraordinary potential.

Gratefully,



Gini Mazman
Executive Director



Homeless in High School

How does a student without stable housing in high school go unnoticed? Many will stay at friends houses or "couch surf". Some navigate the local shelters, while others are placing themselves in dangerous situations in order to have a place to stay. Lynn School districts report 350 young adults who are attending high school and are not in the care of a parent or guardian. Salem school districts report 55 individuals, but according to the Salem Homeless Education Liaison, Jodi Connelly, this is greatly under-reported due to the age of these kids making them more resourceful. Often they don't consider themselves homeless, so they don't readily report their homelessness to administration or even their peers. The numbers grow each year and there are not a lot of options for housing or services for this vulnerable population, and what is available is not always safe or appropriate for a young adult.



We work tirelessly to connect with homeless high school students. We educate teachers and guidance counselors at the Lynn Public School's annual course on helping students experiencing homelessness. We set up informational tables in the schools during lunch hours and we also give presentations during class sessions as invited by individual teachers. If students are uncomfortable coming to the Drop-in Center for the first time, we go to the guidance office and meet them on-site.

There is hope for stability for these students. Each client is encouraged to gain educational credentials as we believe education and skills training are the keys to stability and independence.

Want to learn more about how to get involved at the Haven Project? We hold informational meetings in the Café twice monthly. You can find out about upcoming dates and sign up on our website:

<http://havenproject.net/informational-meetings/>

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Haven Project.

Online: Via credit card: www.havenproject.net/donate
Mail: Via check: 57 Munroe St. Lynn, MA 01901

*We are thrilled to have
been chosen as the 2018
Lynn Chamber of
Commerce's Non Profit
of the Year!*



YOUNG ADULT VOICES

When asked, "How has The Haven Project impacted your life?" twenty-one-year-old Angie responded, "How has it not?" Angie immigrated to America at the age of two and was placed in the custody of her grandparents. She grew up with an alcoholic father in a hostile household where yelling was a constant. Ingrained within her was the message that she "will never amount to anything." Her life circumstances only worsened when she turned eighteen and found that she had no social security number and that her adoption papers had never been finalized. Suddenly, she was an undocumented citizen without anyone on whom she could depend. However, things started to change when she came to the Haven Project. Angie was immediately set up in the tutoring program so she could begin to pursue her GED and case managers helped her navigate the muddy waters of making an income

to survive without being exploited. They started the process of engaging lawyers for Angie to gain citizenship; she is now just one step away from having her status changed. Most importantly, Angie feels that the Haven Project has helped her believe in herself.

Angie recounts, "The Haven Project is a beacon of light, [they] prove that you can do something you thought you couldn't." With this firm hope and belief in herself, Angie now has a stable income and a small apartment. Angie is confident that she will be able to persevere through whatever circumstances life throws her way.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Peter Nicolas has been a faithful volunteer at the Haven Project since 2016. He is currently Senior Vice President and Regional Consultant at Navellier and Associates and with over 30 years of experience as an investment professional, Peter is a high demand math tutor in our Drop-in Center. Having this successful and dedicated man available to our clients has made a great impact on many of their lives. Peter comes to our Drop-in Center most Tuesdays, and often volunteers to tutor for additional evenings. He even lends his time some

Saturdays to help our students succeed.

Clients and staff alike enjoy his charisma, passionate communication, unique sense of humor, and positive attitude. We are so grateful for all of Peter's dedication and hard work. It's volunteers like Peter that show our clients that people in the community care about them, their stories, and ultimately, their success.



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