

Dear Supporter,

For me, this season is a time for reflection and planning.

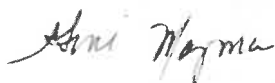
At this time just 7 years ago, I applied for non-profit status for the Haven Project. The application was a daunting pile of legal paperwork with lots of blank pages. It took a lot of dreaming to transform these blank pages into a detailed plan. I'm reflecting now on the faces of the young people we have met; their successes and disappointments, our remarkable staff and dedicated volunteers who always go "above and beyond" the job description, and the consistent support of our donors.

It has been an amazing 7 years.

Now it is time write the next chapter for our organization. This time, I have to the honor of sharing this planning with a group of talented volunteers who share our mission of empowering young people to reach their potential. Seven years later, we are better informed about reaching young people without a stable place to live, what community and support resources are needed, and how to present a pathway to success and independence to the young people who come to us.

Thank you for sharing this journey with us.

Sincerely,



Host Homes Making a Difference

According to the Massachusetts State Youth Count (as of May 2018) 1059 young adults had experienced homelessness in the past 6 months. At the end of the 2017/18 school year, the Department of Education reported 1,038 unaccompanied homeless high school students, 451 of which were in Lynn. By definition, these young people have no stable, safe place to sleep, much less call home.



At the Haven Project, we have a significant need for proactive, compassionate community members willing to become Host Home Volunteers. Our Host Home volunteers act as "friendly landlords" by providing a clean, safe place for a client to live rent-free for a few months as they save money and look for more permanent housing. Volunteers also have the opportunity to engage in pragmatic mentoring, and play a role in supporting clients in their steps towards a healthy, stable livelihood.

In order to be eligible as a Host Home volunteer, you must be at least 25 years old, be able to provide a young person with their own room, and undergo a CORI check.

Youth homelessness is a community issue, and it needs a community solution. Are you willing to be a part of that solution by opening your home to a young person in need?

For more information contact:
Shannon Shaffer - shannon@havenproject.net
or join us at our
Host Home Informational Meeting

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 awarded the 2018 BONS award for both Editor's and Reader's choice for Best Coffee Shop for our second year!

Thank you to all who voted!

YOUNG ADULT VOICES

School was next to impossible for Jennifer. In spite of her deep desire to graduate, her demanding work schedule and limited English kept her from having any hope that she would receive a diploma. Additionally, at home Jennifer was told constantly that school was worthless and she should quit. Eventually, feeling discouraged and frustrated, Jennifer felt she had no choice but to drop-out.

It was shortly after dropping out of school that Jennifer came to the Haven Project. While she still wanted to go back to school, she had doubts that it would ever happen.

In August, everything changed. Jennifer and a Haven staff member attended an open house for Phoenix Academy Charter School, a school with resources like ESL classes and flexible scheduling. After leaving the open house, Jennifer couldn't stop smiling. She knew that returning to school was finally possible.

Jennifer has been attending Phoenix Academy since the end of August. Additionally, Jennifer was able to move out of her unstable, toxic home environment and into Haven's transitional housing program this fall. She's even been able to save enough money to purchase her first car!

Many of the young people we serve at the Haven Project are like Jennifer. Their goals seem unattainable. Like Jennifer, they need the support and resources we provide to give them hope and the opportunities to reach their goals.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Joanne Shaw has been a supporter of the Haven Project since its inception in 2011. Since that time, Joanne has been an integral volunteer for our yearly tennis benefit, our largest fundraising event. Joanne has been a faithful member of our benefit committee attending planning meetings, organizing the raffles to be offered at the event, gathering donations, and expertly displaying them at the event. Being involved in the committee takes a lot of collaboration and time. Joanne has spent many hours working with the committee to make every year a great success.

When asked why Joanne chose to spend her time working with the Haven Project, she said that because she has children of similar age to the clients of the Haven, she could appreciate the amount of support these young adults would need in order to stop the cycle of homelessness. She has also been impressed with the amount of work that Haven has been able to accomplish in the time its been operating.

We are so thankful for the years of service Joanne has served as a volunteer.



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<https://www.facebook.com/lothlynn/>

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