



Over the past few months our Street Outreach Team has been working on the street in the City of Amsterdam, making connections with community members and connecting with youth in Amsterdam to offer emergency basic needs items, crisis intervention and referrals to shelters and other services. During this time, working just a shift every week or two in Amsterdam we have connected with nearly 100 youth and have provided 153 basic needs items including food, school supplies, clothing and hygiene items.

We have had the opportunity to build relationships and connect with youth who are pregnant & parenting, youth who are 'couch surfing', facing eviction and who are in need of basic survival items. We have made direct referrals to shelters for 4 youth and 17 direct referrals to other agencies in the area. We currently are working with 3 youth on a somewhat more in-depth case management level. We have provided emergency crisis intervention on multiple occasions for two youth at high risk of sexual exploitation and in crisis. We have provided respite services for two youth and have housed one youth in our Runaway & Homeless Youth Shelter.

Our goal is to support the Amsterdam drop-in-center through volunteer efforts and we hope to be able to serve hot meals during the hours we are open. We also hope to give youth the opportunity to wash their clothing in addition to the key advantages drop-in-centers provide to support the on-street shifts and the Street Outreach Project which include:

- a.) A fixed location and time youth can count onto meet SOP outreach workers,
- b.) Provide essential items, food, drinks, blankets, clothing, etc.
- c.) Ability to provide case management,
- d.) Ability to host classes for educational support, employability and life-skill training,
- e.) Store reserve immediate aid essentials for on-street shifts
- f.) A place to distribute information regarding accessing shelter, support programs for youth in need, materials on topics such as safe sex, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, mental health, etc.,
- g.) A safe place to escape the streets and connect with positive caring adults,
- h.) Positive recreational and social interactive activities with peers,
- i.) Use of the computer, and
- j.) Access to on-going supportive services.



Another important aspect is drop-in centers allow outreach workers to continue providing services to RHY and street youth during the inclement months of winter. They provide youth a warm place to meet with outreach workers free from the crisis of street life.

Our Proposal and current commitment to a drop-in center on East Main Street in Amsterdam:

This drop in center will be open from 4-8pm on Tuesday evenings. There will be a minimum of 2 CAPTAIN Employees, or 1 CAPTAIN Employee and 1 CAPTAIN Volunteer at the drop in center during these hours. On some days, depending on the availability of our staff, we will be running outreach shifts prior to the drop-in center hours or concurrently with them— sending out our outreach team onto the streets to make further connections with youth, frequently referring them to the drop-in-center where they can access more in-depth services.

The hope for the future would be that through more community involvement and tie-in to other non-profits, religious organizations and individuals, along with additional grant money to help supplement our available staff hours, we would be able to expand the drop in center's hours and services.

Having a drop in center location will give us greater access to the community as well as giving us a consistent location where youth can congregate in a safe and supportive place. I believe that a drop in center will allow us to provide more extensive and more effective services to the youth of Amsterdam.

Already we have had the opportunity to have a positive effect on the lives of some of Amsterdam's youth and we hope that we can increase these opportunities through this Project.