



A Safe Place to Turn

Youth on Fire (YOF) is a daytime drop-in center dedicated to supporting unhoused and unaccompanied youth in Greater Boston. Located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, this welcoming program provides a judgment-free environment where members can find safety, enjoy a homemade meal, access showers or a place to nap, receive referrals, and work on their personal goals.

YOF provides young people with a place to land, ensuring they are treated with dignity and respect. Members benefit from a comprehensive range of services delivered under one roof, supported by a trusted staff that prioritizes their physical and mental well-being. Utilizing a Harm Reduction approach, our professionals provide prevention strategies to help reduce the risks that often accompany being unhoused.

At YOF, young people can come as they are; there are no requirements for care. We are dedicated to empowering all members to work toward independence, find stability, and receive personalized support that aligns with their unique journeys.



THE NEED



On any given night, there are roughly 400 unaccompanied youth in the city of Boston. These young people face significant threats to their emotional, physical and psychological well-being.

OUR IMPACT



We provide over 200 youth per year with a safe and welcoming environment where members can access basic needs, receive support from staff they trust and work on personal goals.

About Youth on Fire:

Established in 2000 and obtained by The Home for Little Wanderers in 2024, Youth on Fire is a low-barrier drop-in day program offering hot meals, on-site services and safety to unhoused, unaccompanied youth, ages 14 to 24. YOF is largely funded by the Department of Public Health and the City of Cambridge. No formal requirements are needed for entry.

THE HOME FOR LITTLE WANDERERS **ME**

BETTER, BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR KIDS

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Youth on Fire empowers its members to gain independence, get back on their feet and receive individualized support and services.

How We Help

Some young adults come to Youth on Fire every day while others drop in a few times a week or a few times a month. The uses of the space vary depending on an individual's needs and circumstances.

Members can access:

- ♥ Nourishing meals and snacks
- ♥ Showers and bathrooms
- ♥ Hygiene and personal care items
- ♥ Long-term lockers
- ♥ ID navigation
- ♥ Laundry facilities
- ♥ Clothing and shoe exchange
- ♥ Art and music groups
- ♥ STI counseling and testing
- ♥ Case management and referrals to:
 - » Insurance and benefits enrollment
 - » Primary care and dental care
 - » Behavioral and mental health services
 - » Housing support and shelters
 - » LGBTQ+ support
 - » Resume building and job search
 - » Educational help
 - » Legal aid
 - » Immigration support
 - » And more



Located in the basement of a church building, YOF is a bright, colorful open space with areas for lounging and dining, computer workstations, an industrial-grade kitchen and more.

"I was a foster kid and aged out. I had nowhere to go, so I became homeless on my 18th birthday. I have been coming to YOF for years. I feel safe here. I mostly come to eat and talk. Just having somebody listen helps a lot. Sometimes people just need help. This program really helps a lot of people."

- a YOF member

LOCATION AND CONTACT



Youth on Fire is located at 1 Church St. in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02138. We are open five days a week: M, T, W, F 11am-5pm, Thurs. by appointment. For more information, call 617-661-2508.

About The Home *for* Little Wanderers

For over 200 years, The Home for Little Wanderers has helped build stable lives and hopeful tomorrows for children and their families. Our 30+ community-based and residential programs serve thousands of youth, from birth to age 26, who are in at-risk circumstances. Many of these children have experienced abuse, neglect, trauma or a disrupted family life. As the oldest child welfare agency in America, we provide them with safe surroundings, permanent loving relationships and a secure path toward a better, brighter future.