



Summer Break is No Vacation for Homeless Teens

While summer break for many youth involves carefree days spent at the pool, hanging out with friends or enjoying downtime at home, homelessness and a daily struggle to survive are the harsh reality for too many young people.

Homelessness among unaccompanied youth—that is those who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian—is difficult to count. Results from a recent point in time survey in Jackson and Wyandotte County indicate we are making progress; but far too many young people, thousands by some counts, remain without safe and stable housing throughout Greater Kansas City.

The summer months present unique challenges for at-risk youth and families when the structure and stability of the school environment are missing. Jennifer Paulsen manages the youth shelter at Synergy and reports slightly higher numbers seeking shelter in the summer months compared to the rest of the year; which is extra challenging since the shelter operates at capacity year-round and has to turn people away. So far this year the number of youth turned away is 36 percent higher than last year, with 23 young people turned away last month alone.

To narrow this gap, the agency has been steadily increasing staff capacity at the youth shelter. As a result, four additional beds were opened up earlier this month bringing the total to 18, with the ultimate goal of getting to 20.

Learn More

For more insight into the challenge of youth homelessness in our community, check out these recent news stories:

Moving Out but Struggling to Move On: A story in Flatland (KCPT's digital magazine) about the partnership between Park University, Truman Medical Center & Synergy Services to house and educate homeless young people.

Homelessness is the new reality for thousands of Kansas City area teens: A KCTV 5 story about youth homelessness in our community.

KCPD Diversity Officer working to act as a liaison for Kansas City's LGBTQ community: A Fox 4 story about the challenges facing the LGBTQ community, including homelessness.

Of course, more youth at the shelter means more resources are needed, including financial gifts and volunteers. Help us provide safety and stability by **donating online** or **contact Jennifer Paulsen** to volunteer to prepare a meal, help with cleaning or answer phones. Your support can mean one less young person has to spend one more day alone.

Homeless in KC: A Kansas City Star story on the results of most recent HUD Point in Time survey on homelessness.

News & Events



Chiefs Tickets that Give Back

Hey Chiefs fans, have we got a deal for you...discounted tickets that also give back to our community. That's a win-win for sure! Here's all you need to do: **Purchase your Chiefs tickets here** for \$33.50 per ticket. Use the promo code SYNERGY and the Chiefs will donate \$10 from every ticket back to Synergy! This deal won't last long...get them before they're gone!

Stand Up for Synergy

We are so excited to announce that the one and only Norm Macdonald is headlining Stand up for Synergy this fall! We hope you can join us for this stand-out event at Argosy Casino Hotel & Spa on November 3! We promise a memorable evening that makes a huge difference for the people we serve. Tickets and sponsorships are on sale now. **Check it out today!**



Women of Weatherby

Our thanks to the Weatherby Lake Women's Club who donated scarves and 40 new purses filled with personal hygiene products! The women at our Domestic Violence Center were ecstatic to receive these generous gifts!

Sharing Best Practices

Shout out to our Youth Street Outreach staff who facilitated a workshop on how to collaborate with community partners to run a successful **Safe Place** program at the 2018 National Safe Place Conference in Louisville, KY earlier this month!