

# HELP PROVIDE HOUSING FOR OUR HOMELESS KIDS

*Our program's aim is simple: to get at-risk students through high school*

*Dropouts are six times more likely to end up in prison and three times more likely to be unemployed than those who graduate from high school.*

**THE PROBLEM:** Imagine for a moment that you are a homeless 16-year-old high school student. Your teachers urge you to stay in school. But it's hard when you have no safe place to sleep, no healthy meals, no place to study, no clean clothes, no place to shower, no money, no trustworthy adult guidance...the list goes on. And all around you is a growing chorus of whispers urging you to give up the struggle and drop out. Officials estimate that more than 400 homeless youth are enrolled in Eugene, Bethel and Springfield high schools and that these youngsters are at extreme risk of dropping out. The outlook is bleak for those who do: Unemancipated homeless teens have few public resources, private assistance or housing options available to them. Many underage youth end up living on the street, where they are vulnerable to violence, drugs and a thriving human-trafficking trade along the I-5 corridor.



**THE SOLUTION:** St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County wants to help our community's homeless youth stay in school by converting the former Presbyterian Church at 3350 Willamette St. in Eugene into housing for homeless high school students ages 16 through 18. The complex will house 14 homeless youth rent free for up to two years with the key requirement that they remain in school. A manager will live on-site and the house will include a community space, kitchen, laundry, counseling office, computer lab and study areas.

**THE GOAL:** To provide homeless high school students with the secure housing and social services they need to graduate and to enhance their chances of becoming successful, productive and healthy citizens.

**THE PARTNERS:** SVDP is partnering with Eugene, Bethel and Springfield school districts, The 15<sup>th</sup> Night, and with Hosea Youth Services, a local nonprofit with two decades of experience providing services to improve the lives of homeless youth.

**WITH YOUR SUPPORT:** We can give our community's homeless youth a fair shot at achieving a bright future.

**HOW TO HELP:** Please consider a generous donation to help make this project a reality. Our immediate need is for funding to complete the \$1 million remodel of the former church. Send checks (made out to "SVDP" and designated "Homeless Youth Housing") to SVDP at P.O. Box 24608, Eugene, OR 97402. Donations can also be made on our secure website at [www.svdp.us](http://www.svdp.us) (click on the "Donate" icon and then the box "Homeless youth housing")—or call Paul Neville (541)743-7121 or Paula Berry (541)743-7144. Please consider donating to help our community's homeless youth.



SVDP is the largest nonprofit human services agency in Lane County with more than 550 employees, over 1,300 units of affordable housing, and an array of social services programs to help low-income people become self-sufficient. We serve more than 90,000 people in our community every year. Our mission statement: "We assist the poor and those in need of consolation, seeking out and utilizing every resource."

For more information, visit [www.svdp.us/news/article/homeless-youth](http://www.svdp.us/news/article/homeless-youth)