

DATA ON UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH IN ROCK COUNTY

- The term “unaccompanied youth” refers to homeless teens not in the physical custody of a parent. This includes youth who are separated from parents for a variety of reasons, often including family conflict, abuse or neglect, and parental substance abuse and “throwaways”.
- 83 unaccompanied youth were identified in the School District of Janesville alone in 08-09.
- In the School District of Beloit, 21 unaccompanied youth were identified during the first semester of 09-10.
- RAYS is the only emergency shelter option available to homeless teens under the age of 18 in Rock County.



LSS Mission

**MOTIVATED BY THE
COMPASSION OF CHRIST,
WE HELP PEOPLE
IMPROVE THE QUALITY
OF THEIR LIVES.**

HEAT Mission

**TO PROVIDE A SAFE
ALTERNATIVE FOR
HOMELESS AND
RUNAWAY YOUTH IN
ROCK COUNTY, WHILE
STABILIZING AND
STRENGTHENING
FAMILIES.**



**Become A
Safe
Home**

Runaway And Youth Services (RAYS)



**Homeless Education Action Team
(HEAT)**

612 North Randall Avenue
Janesville, WI 53545
(608) 752-7660

WHAT IS A SAFE HOME?

A safe home is a licensed foster home that is primarily responsible for providing emergency shelter to runaway and/or homeless youth, ages 11-17. Assistance to youth age 18 can be provided if the youth is still enrolled in high school.

WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO?

You will need to become licensed as a foster parent. Once licensed, you will be asked to provide food, shelter, toiletries, and supervision for the youth placed in your home. A daily stipend of \$10 will be provided to assist with this. Communication with the RAYS Coordinator and potentially with the youth's family must also occur.

HOW IS A YOUTH PLACED IN MY HOME?

Youth are referred to the RAYS Coordinator for shelter services. The RAYS Coordinator will speak with the youth and other important individuals, including the youth's parent(s), to determine the youth's needs. If it is determined that the youth will benefit from shelter services, the RAYS Coordinator will contact you and talk with you about the youth needing shelter. It is always your choice whether or not to accept placement.

HOW DO I BECOME A LICENSED FOSTER PARENT?

Foster parents must go through a licensing process that includes, and may not be limited to:

- Multiple background checks
- 3 non-relative references
- Training, prior to placement and ongoing
- A complete application
- A series of interviews
- A home inspection
- Documentation of a physical examination of all family members within the last six months

**It should be noted that the costs associated with background checks and training are covered by the agency. Cost associated with the physical examination of family members is the responsibility of the family.



HOW LONG CAN A YOUTH BE PLACED IN MY HOME?

A youth can be placed in a safe home for up to 14 days; however, it is the goal of the team involved with the youth to return the youth home and/or to find other safe and stable living arrangements for the youth as soon as possible.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A YOUTH NEEDS TO BE REMOVED FROM THE HOME?

A RAYS Coordinator is available 24-hours a day in the event of a crisis. In a situation where you and/or the youth is unsafe, police should also be contacted.