



**Student Homelessness  
Initiative Partnership**

of Frederick County



## *Our Mission*

**The Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership builds capacity in students to reduce housing insecurity, homelessness, and their impact by breaking the systemic barriers facing Frederick County youth.**

# 947

Homeless in Frederick  
County Public Schools

July 2022





## Programs

- Basic Material Needs
- New Horizons
  - New Horizons Academy
  - College Horizons
- Thrive Housing Network
  - Host Homes
  - Rapid Rehousing



Approximately 200 high school students each year are considered to be unaccompanied.


The Thrive Housing Network serves unaccompanied students ages 16-24.

The program provides a housing first approach to case management services.


HSP and ESG funds were used to make this program a reality.

# What is Youth Choice?


Youth choice is about affirming and acknowledging the fact that young people deserve to have the freedom to govern over their own lives and choices. Youth choice means having youth at the table and giving youth the power and freedom to choose the host they feel most suits them. Youth choice may mean supporting youth to make the choices they feel best empower them even if it differs from the choices or recommendations of supportive adults or staff. ***Ultimately, we believe it is most important that young people be their own agents of change and growth.***



## What is a host home?


- Short-term host homes are an intervention for youth who are currently experiencing homelessness for any variety of reasons
  - The goal is to provide a safe, temporary, welcoming space
  - Host homes are currently being used in numerous cities across the United States.
  - Community based – leverages existing resources.
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# Types of Hosts


- Stranger Match
  - Kinship Match
  - Immigration Support Match
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# Program Launch

- Thrive began offering host homes in December 2019
  - Expectations shifted as the pandemic impacted programming
  - Over 30 students housed over the last year
  - SHIP's Youth Action Board was actively involved
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# Lessons Learned

- Host Homes are not for everyone, that can be difficult to communicate
  - Kinship matches are more successful and less work than stranger matches
  - Driver education programming was necessary to successful student transitions in most cases
  - Rapid Rehousing was a needed next step for students
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# THRIVE!

HOST HOME NETWORK

- **April 06, 2021:** Moved into host family's home while experiencing homelessness
- **May – July 2021:** Graduated High School + Began knocking down barriers preventing success. Barriers included obtaining a birth certificate, finding employment, setting up a bank account, enrolling in higher education, and obtaining a driver's permit/working towards a driver's license
- **August 2021:** After learning about available educational opportunities, I enrolled at Frederick Community College, being a 1st generation college student.
- **August 15, 2022:** Exited Thrive Host Home Program. After exiting the program, I continued to live with my host family while finishing my studies. We have a beautiful relationship, and I am extremely grateful for the connection we have. I am currently in my second semester of the ADN (associates degree in nursing) program at FCC. My graduation date will be in December of 2024!



## Follow Up



- Email me:  
[melissa@shipfrederick.com](mailto:melissa@shipfrederick.com)
- Visit our website:  
[shipfrederick.com](http://shipfrederick.com)

**THANK YOU!**