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Spotlighting Austin Youth Homelessness: LifeWorks Leads World Homelessness Day Campaign

As the demand for youth housing triples in four years, LifeWorks raises awareness of urgent challenges facing homeless youth in Austin on World Homelessness Day.

AUSTIN, TX, October 8, 2024 - On October 10th, 2024, LifeWorks will join the global community in recognizing World Homeless Day by hosting a series of in-person and digital initiatives aimed at raising awareness and support for youth homelessness. With a focus on highlighting the unique challenges faced by young people, LifeWorks will shine a light on the critical need for housing, counseling, and education services to solve youth homelessness in Austin.

In-Person Site Tour & Social Media Campaign

As part of the day's events, LifeWorks will open its doors for an exclusive tour of the LifeWorks East Site. The community is invited to visit the Sooch Foundation East Austin Youth and Family Resource Center (835 N. Pleasant Valley, Austin, TX 78702) on October 10th, from 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM CT. The tour will provide a firsthand look at LifeWorks comprehensive services, including housing at the Works Apartments, on-site counseling, and inspiring education/workforce programs that support more than 2,500 youth and families annually.

In addition to the tour, LifeWorks will launch a special social media campaign designed to showcase the impact of community giving. The World Homeless Day campaign, built around the idea of "10 people giving \$10 on 10/10," will demonstrate how even small donations can make a profound difference when the community comes together in Austin.

A Call to Focus on Youth Homelessness

While conversations around adult homelessness in Austin are prevalent, LifeWorks is calling attention to a critical, often overlooked issue—youth homelessness. Many young people face significant challenges, including the difficult transition out of foster care, leaving them vulnerable to homelessness and trauma. LifeWorks remains dedicated to addressing these unique struggles with its three-pillar approach: housing, counseling, and education/workforce services.

"Homelessness among youth in Austin is an urgent crisis that has risen drastically in a short period of time," said Liz Schoenfeld, Ph.D., CEO of LifeWorks. "In 2020, fewer than 250 youth were on the waitlist for permanent housing. Today, there are over 900. Demand for housing is up, while resources are down, which is why we are amplifying our young clients' voices on World Homelessness Day. We invite the Austin community to help us drive meaningful change because we can solve youth homelessness together."

A Client's Story of Transformation

Melinda M., a former LifeWorks client, shares how the organization changed her life. "If it wasn't for LifeWorks, I don't know where I'd be. I was on the streets, living in a car with my two kids. But LifeWorks helped me find an apartment, and we moved in before Christmas, and now I'm working on my career that I love," Melinda said, emphasizing the transformative role that LifeWorks support played in her journey.

Get Involved

The media and the Austin community are invited to a LifeWorks East Austin Campus tour on October 10th at 9 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to learn more about how to get help or give help by visiting lifeworksaustin.org or by participating in the \$10 on 10/10 campaign on LifeWorks social media channels. Together, Austinites can play a direct role in addressing youth homelessness in their city.

About LifeWorks

LifeWorks is a fearless advocate for youth and young adults pursuing a life they love and a stable future for themselves and their families. Established in 1998, LifeWorks provides a comprehensive network of support services, including housing, counseling, education, and workforce development, to over 2,500 youth and families each year. Our mission is to address youth homelessness, ensure rapid employment, and offer healing through compassionate and evidence-based care. For more information, visit lifeworksaustin.org.

