Cook for Kids (C4K) is a meal provided and prepared for by a volunteer group of caring individuals who make a meal at one of our youth shelters for its resident kids. Since the inaugural Cook for Kids, spearheaded by Trinity Rotary several years ago, many community, religious and civic groups have since volunteered their time to this cause.

C4K provides more than a meal as it relieves shelter staff of meal time preparation, food cost offset by the volunteer’s donation and allows more direct supervision of its youth. The resident youth also have the opportunity to engage with caring volunteers from their own community, which improves the occasion to mentor a youth one on one.

Since C4K volunteers are considered ‘short term volunteers’, it means that YFA does not complete criminal background checks on its volunteers. Because of this, it is policy that shelter staff must be present at all times for any youth interaction. For safety and accountability, enter through the front door and ensure that you sign in. Do not leave your area (the kitchen) unless staff is aware. Please use standard food safety practices for food preparation at all times. If you have not completed a ‘short term application’, please do so.

It is not uncommon for the program to have youth who are protected by state and federal laws of confidentiality. By coming into the shelter one will agree to protect the confidentiality of its resident youth.

We believe C4K is a ‘win-win’ situation for the shelter and its volunteers. Kids in shelter have awareness that their community cares, and cares enough to spend time not only providing the food, but also preparing a home-cooked meal. Our volunteers say they get more out of the experience than they give. Please join us in “Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow”.

New Beginnings Youth Shelter, 18377 Sheriff Mylander Way, Brooksville, FL 34601
RAP House Youth Shelter, 7522 Plathe Road, New Port Richey, FL 34653
George Harris Youth Shelter, 1060 U.S. Highway 17 South, Bartow, FL 33830

For More Information
Stefanie Pontlitz, spontlitz@yfainc.org / 727-514-5133