



Compass House

A new direction for a better life.

COMPASS HOUSE OVERVIEW

Mission:

To provide homeless and runaway youth with safe shelter and services, through a voluntary and mutually agreed-upon process, in an environment which supports dignity, respect and self-reliance.

Compass House Facts:

Compass House is a not-for-profit agency offering safe shelter and services for runaway and homeless youth in Western New York. Founded in 1972, we have an almost four decade track record of advocacy in WNY and remain the only shelter and resource center for both male and female runaway and homeless youth ages 12-24 in Erie County.

Philosophy and Goals:

- We are committed to working with youth, and their families in a non-judgmental, non-authoritarian way, to find solutions without assigning blame
- We encourage youth to work on and deal with their problems in a constructive, positive & responsible manner, while we assist in improving family relationships when possible
- We respect the rights and privacy of each youth
- We are committed to the goal of helping to empower each youth to become stable, independent & productive members of our community
- We are committed to working with each youth as a partner in planning for his or her future and in achieving personal goals
- All of our services are voluntary and free

Services Offered:

The Compass House Emergency Shelter — 370 Linwood Ave, Buffalo NY 14209 • 24-Hour Crisis Help Line (716) 886-0935

- Open 24 hours a day, housing up to 13 youth
- Serves both male & female runaway & homeless youth, 12 through 17 years of age
- Safe Place Program enables youth to access services throughout Erie County at all TOPS Markets and Martin Super Stores, as well as any NFTA bus and at other designated locations.

Providing immediate access to:

- Safe shelter, food, clothing & needed emergency services
- Intake and assessment services
- Crisis counseling, individual, family & group counseling
- Referrals, advocacy & aftercare

The Compass House Resource Center — 1451 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209 • Administrative Offices: (716) 886-1351

- A Non-Residential Program Open Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm (groups 5-7 pm four nights a week)
- Serves both male & female homeless youth, 14 through 24 years of age

Providing immediate access to:

- Intake and assessment services
- Case Management Services
- Crisis counseling, individual, family and group counseling
- Referrals, advocacy and aftercare
- Positive social & recreational activities
- Individual & group independent living skills instruction



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Safe Shelter and Services for Runaway and Homeless Youth

Project Safe Place:

Getting assistance from Compass House can be as easy as finding a Tops Market, NFTA bus or other site in your neighborhood—day or night. Through the Safe Place Program, young people in crisis can access help at any location displaying the yellow Safe Place symbol, including:

Tops Markets
NFTA Metro Bus (No Fare Necessary)
Lackawanna Fire Station
Gay and Lesbian Youth Services (GLYS)
Lancaster Youth Bureau
Tonawanda Fire Station and Police
Boys and Girls Club of Buffalo, Northtowns and East Aurora
Hispanics United of Buffalo (HUB)

Our Safe Place Program is part of a national initiative created in response to the calls of young people with nowhere to go and no way to get there. As a result, many youth coping with personal or family crises never reach the shelter they need. To address this problem, Project Safe Place was developed, designating businesses and community buildings as locations where youth can easily access help via a network of volunteers willing to transport them to safety. Safe Place enriches Compass House's mission each year as it brings remarkable exposure and national merit to our local efforts with an ever-growing list of site partners. The Safe Place network in Erie County has offered a beacon for the more than 60 young people who have come to Compass House for safety and support who would not have found us otherwise. See www.compasshouse.org for a complete list.

The Street Outreach Program:

To double Compass House's outreach efforts, the agency launched the Street Outreach Program in 2008, an initiative that operates evenings and weekends to inform youth about shelter options and community resources. Staff members routinely canvass local neighborhoods, teen hang-outs and other areas to distribute information about our programs and our partners along with red Compass House knapsacks filled with gift cards for food, personal care and hygiene items to make life a bit easier for kids living in the fringes. With the support of the AmeriCorps volunteer program, Compass House has extended its reach to capture the attention of roughly 500 young people each year that might need us, but not know we are here. Through interactions with Compass House's Street Outreach team, youth increase awareness of resources available to them as an alternative to surviving on the streets while developing trusting relationships with supportive, positive adults.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

370 Linwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209
24-Hour Crisis Help Line: 716.886.0935
Fax: 716.886.8386
Web: www.compasshouse.org



RESOURCE CENTER

1451 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209
Client Services: 716.884.3066
Administrative Offices: 716.886.1351
Fax: 716.886.8387