



## 120-Day Interim Housing Program at Open Door Youth Shelter—West Town

“The Open Door was the first place where I felt at home.”—Program Participant, age 17

**PURPOSE:** To build relationships with runaway and homeless youth by providing interim housing, and supportive services, including customized plans for addressing housing, education and employment issues to help youth achieve self-reliance.

**FOUNDED:** October 1992 in Chicago’s Lakeview neighborhood. In August 2006, program moved to the second and third floors of Open Door Youth Shelter —West Town.

**PROGRAM:** The 120-Day Interim Housing Program is for homeless youth, ages 14-20, who are not wards of the state. This includes pregnant and parenting youth and their children.

It is open and staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and provides a temporary home and services for its residents

Open Door provides beds for eight young women and eight young men and up to five of their infants/toddlers

Residents may stay for a maximum of 120 days

**RESIDENTS:** The Interim Housing Program at Open Door Youth Shelter —West Town serves approximately 200 clients a year, with the average stay being about 90 days. Homeless youth face unique issues including family problems, lack of education, inexperience with daily living skills, and social isolation. Residents receive assistance as needed after they leave Open Door Youth Shelter —West Town through our Continuing Care Program.

**SERVICES:** Upon entering our Interim Program, residents work with a case manager to develop an individualized plan designed to move them to next-step housing and independence, addressing issues such as:

Education

Job training

Job searching

Medical care

Prenatal care

Mental health

Substance abuse

Family reunification (when possible)

The 120-Day Interim Housing Program at Open Door Youth Shelter—West Town is sponsored in part by a grant from the Chicago Department of Human Services

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