



Our Mission

*To serve youth
in our community by providing
temporary emergency
shelter, furthering education,
and charitable activities
through a faith-based approach.*

*We strive to provide
a better future for youth
and positive changes
in their lives.*

*Helping youth succeed
helps make our community
a better place to live,
for all of us.*



*Please.
Help us help our kids.*



**HEARTS
—WITH-A—
MISSION**

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heartswithamission.org

*HeartsWithAMission is a nonprofit,
faith-based, 501(c) Oregon corporation with
Public Charity IRS classification.*



**HEARTS
—WITH-A—
MISSION**

A place
of hope & refuge
for youth

National Statistics show that an estimated 500,000 youth, under the age of 15, live on the streets of America. In Jackson



*"It is our vision to create temporary, emergency shelter where youth can get the services they need to make positive changes in their lives."
-Kevin Lamson, Founder*

County there are more than 1,647 identified homeless kids. At least 173 of these unaccompanied minors live on their own

—without a parent or guardian—in cars, tents, under bridges, or other public places.

The law defines homeless youth as minors who lack adequate, fixed nighttime residences. Included are those living in public places, vehicles, campgrounds, motels, multiple family dwellings, or at a friend's house.

Out of sight, due to strict enforcement of curfew and loitering ordinances, homeless youth are rarely visible.

The National Association of Social Workers states that 66% of kids seeking shelter were physically or sexually abused. Last year 895 abused kids were treated in Jackson County, and these were just the reported cases.



At-risk youth are not allowed to stay at emergency shelters without a legal guardian, but where is a kid to go when their legal guardian *is* their abuser? Afraid to trust, these youth often do not seek help. HeartsWithAMission has set out to change this.

HeartsWithAMission, a Medford organization, is building a state licensed residential care facility for homeless and at-risk youth 10 to 17 years of age. This 17-bed home, with three separate quadrants, will provide youth with emergency shelter for 72 hours, and up to 120 days with written parental consent.

According to the Oregon Department of Education nearly 9% of Medford's student body is homeless—the second highest percentage in Oregon behind Portland.

HeartsWithAMission's trained staff will not only provide individual case management, but also a safe environment where youth can stabilize, stay in school, and move towards self-sufficiency. Fostering self-sufficiency through education and job training, the staff will help youth leave the streets behind to become contributing members of the community. To this end, HeartsWithAMission will collaborate with local law enforcement and Jackson County school districts; as well



as provide links to local service agencies.

HeartsWithAMission's youth shelter will offer many services including: walk-in access, assessment, screening, crisis intervention, 24-hour help line, engagement, and family conflict resolution.

The 24-hour staff will also supply homeless youth with all basic needs including: meals, bedding, toiletries, clothing, study space, entertainment, compassion, and encouragement.

To promote self-respect, youth who stay at the shelter, are expected to be enrolled in school, participate in household chores and follow house rules.

HeartsWithAMission's shelter for homeless and at-risk youth is located at 521 Edwards Street in Medford. It will be Jackson County's *only* emergency shelter with 24-hour walk-in access for youth under the age of 18, and will fill an important gap in our community services.

*"If a kid isn't turned on to learning, they are not going to be turned on to living."
-Bill Milken,
Advocate for
Communities in Schools*

