

Reaching Out

Hello Friends of Youth Fans and Supporters!

My name is Shawn Sivly and I am the new Outreach and Shelter Program Manager for Friends of Youth. On January 19th, I will have officially been employed with Friends of Youth for 13 years. I have learned a lot in my many positions with Friends of Youth and sincerely feel that services provided by Friends of Youth positively impact many youth and families. In my professional growth, as well in my professional struggles, I am fortunate and grateful to have been promoted to this very difficult yet rewarding position. My experience so far has continued to enlighten me to the chronic issues of youth homelessness. I am amazed at the compassion and dedication the Outreach and Shelter staff put forth in assisting homeless youth. The professional services that we provide truly make a difference in these youth's lives.

The Outreach program continues to search for youth on the streets on the Eastside. They provide case management to help these youth get off the streets and into something more stable. Our Youth Haven Shelter Programs provide temporary housing for youth ages 11-17. During this time, the staff and counselor/case managers will work with the youth on individual goals, which will focus on family reunification, alternative housing options, school attendance, medical/dental, emotion/mental health needs, and drug/alcohol issues etc. Our overnight shelter called "The Landing" provides youth ages 18-23 a warm place to sleep, a hot meal, showers and laundry facilities from 8:30p.m. – 8:00 a.m. Sunday – Thursday.

All and all, it is a tough and heart breaking job when working with this population. However, the successful outcomes that result in all our work are truly inspirational. I look forward to my role as the Outreach and Shelter Program Manager and I am confident that we will reach many more youth who are in need.

Shawn Sivly MSW
Outreach/Shelter Program Manager
Friends of Youth