

EVA'S PHOENIX PROGRAMS

FOR HOMELESS/AT-RISK YOUTH-16-29

LIFE SKILLS

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

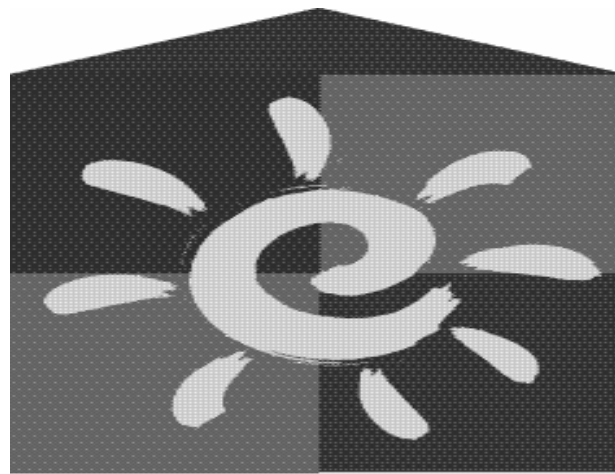
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTS-16-24

ALL PROGRAMS LISTED ABOVE

HOUSING PROGRAMMING

ONE ON ONE COUNSELLING



eva's phoenix

Creating opportunities for homeless youth

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLOR

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER

11 Ordnance Street, Toronto, ON M6K 1A1

Phone 416-364-1674 · Fax 416-364-2985

(near King and Strachan)

Eva's Phoenix Housing Program

Eva's Phoenix is a co-ed shelter that provides housing for 50 youth aged 16-24. The maximum stay for each youth is up to one year.

The physical environment of Eva's Phoenix is comprised of ten town house units, and approximately five youth live in each house. Each youth has their own bedroom, and is responsible for sharing common living areas with their housemates. The goal of the Housing Program is to assist youth in developing the skills that they need so they can live independently. The Housing Program offers a supportive and safe living environment, counseling, advocacy and guidance to the youth that reside at Eva's Phoenix.

The main focus of the Housing team is one-on-one counseling, where the youth will be supported to make positive changes in their lives. The Housing team focuses a great deal of energy on a one-on-one counseling model, and works closely with the Employment and Mentorship teams to bring innovative and creative approaches to counseling. The Housing Counselors work very closely with the youth to establish individual plans of action and offer support and guidance to help articulate those goals into manageable steps.

In addition to creating their own goals, youth are involved in many aspects of the shelter community. There are a number of resident-involved committees that run inside the shelter. There is a Maintenance Committee that works with the Property Manager to maintain the physical appearance of the shelter and complete minor repairs. Generally, the residents interested in this committee will also have an interest in the Construction or Carpentry Employment Program. There is an Events Committee that focuses on the community events in the shelter. Residents on this committee explore ideas for community events and assist in the planning and execution of those events.

There is also a Governance Committee where the residents discuss and inform policy and procedure decisions in the shelter. Often, this group will explore responses to different issues that arise in the shelter and inform resolutions.

Eva's Phoenix has a strong commitment to involve youth in all aspects of their journey at Eva's Phoenix. Residents are given the opportunity to make mistakes and figure out the best way to avoid those mistakes in the future, and to make amends for them in the present.

The housing team facilitates house meetings periodically to encourage youth to establish rules and boundaries for their units. The staff also work with individuals, as well as households to resolve conflicts and encourage a sense of community among housemates.

There are also many workshops offered by the Housing team. These workshops include:

- ❑ Community meals: where a group of youth plan, shop, and prepare a meal to eat together. These meals offer guidance on issues such as hygiene, budgeting, co-operation and community building.
- ❑ Shopping; where staff accompany residents on shopping trips to offer guidance regarding budgeting, nutrition, meal planning, etc.
- ❑ Health
- ❑ Substance use
- ❑ Tenant's Rights/Landlord Responsibilities
- ❑ Housing Search
- ❑ Budgeting
- ❑ Anger/Stress Management
- ❑ Conflict Resolution
- ❑ Anti-oppression
- ❑ Communication
- ❑ Safe/Healthy Sex
- ❑ And many more.....

The Housing Program also works closely with youth to prepare for leaving the shelter. This may include connecting youth with a local food bank and/or furniture bank to help get them started. Youth are also provided with community information and also one-on-one counseling and support.

Once youth leave the shelter, we offer community support if problems arise with Landlords or Tenants. We also encourage our Ex-Residents to stay in contact with the shelter and are given open invitations to community and special events in the shelter.

The goal of Eva's Phoenix is to be the last social service stop a youth will have to make before living independently. The Employment and Housing teams work together to ensure that the youth have the skills required for independent living to be successful.



Criteria for Acceptance into Eva's Phoenix Housing Program

Youth between the ages of 16-24 are accepted into the Housing Program based on the criteria listed below.

1. Being At Risk
 - living on the street
 - living in unstable/unsafe housing
 - living in the shelter system

2. Housing Goals
 - identified need to stabilize housing
 - identified life skills goals, such as cooking
 - willingness to live collaboratively
 -

3. Employment Goals
 - must be willing to participate in employment programs or services
 - have full time sustainable employment
 - currently participating in an outside employment program

If youth have:

A Criminal History

- cannot have any outstanding charges or warrants, be on bail or probation for any serious/violent convictions

Mental Health Concerns

- must have the capacity to participate in employment services
- must be able to monitor their own medication
- must be able to participate in a shared community environment
- must have the capacity to participate with chores, cooking, budgeting, laundry, grocery shopping



Criteria for Acceptance into Eva's Phoenix Employment Programs

Youth between the ages of 16 & 29 are accepted into our employment programs based on three major factors. These are:

1. Being At-Risk

The following are factors we consider when determining if youth are at-risk:

a) Employment-Barriers to meaningful/sustainable employment

- history of minimum wage jobs
- all of employment worked outside of Canada
- employment record-spotty jobs/lack of references
- youth would not have opportunity to enter or have difficulty entering specific field without a program
- lack of experience/skills

b) Income

- is low-income if self-supporting
- OW/ODSP
- family is low-income [for those youth who live with their parent(s) or guardian(s)]

c) Education

- has not completed high school education
- has not completed post-secondary education
- has outstanding loans from post-secondary & incomplete education

d) Housing

- is living in unstable housing
- does not have housing
- lives in the shelter system
- lives in subsidized housing

e) Life History

- has a history of mental health issues
- is on probation or has a history with the legal system
- has a history of drug or alcohol abuse

2. Suitability of Program for Youth

- Youth is specifically interested in program they are applying for
- Youth has a realistic view of the program & realistic view of our expectations
- Youth meets requirements of specific program
- Follow-up with referring worker confirms youth's suitability for the program

3. Ability of Youth to Commit to Program

- Youth demonstrates self awareness- is aware of the issues they are facing and has self-identified the supports they have or need to be able to maintain full-time employment
- Youth demonstrates ability to problem solve-healthy strategies around resolving conflict with co-workers/ employers
- Youth is able to identify how the program fits into their short and long term goals

Eva's Phoenix Referral Information

Eva's Phoenix is a non-traditional shelter that offers employment programs and housing to homeless and at risk youth aged 16-24. Residents can live at Eva's Phoenix for up to one year. (Employment services are available to youth 16-29)

HOUSING

We have 10 townhouse units inside a renovated warehouse. There are 5 youth per unit. Residents are required to share the kitchen, bathroom, shower, and living/dining room of their unit. Each resident will have her/his own bedroom. Residents of Eva's Phoenix are responsible for their own cooking, cleaning and laundry. They are expected to take care of their homes and themselves and to work with staff to identify their goals and the barriers to their goals.

Our goal is to offer opportunities leading to self-sufficiency through: life skills, housing and community support and independent living.

EMPLOYMENT

We offer employment programs in a variety of sectors. We also work with other agencies to refer youth to external training and employment opportunities. Youth who are not residing at Eva's Phoenix are eligible for participation in our employment programs provided they are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

It is mandatory that all residents of Eva's Phoenix be engaged in a training program, employment services, be employed or clearly identify employment as a goal.

Please consider referring youth who:

- Are ready and willing to engage in employment programs
- Have clear employment goals
- Are homeless or at risk
- Need to develop the life skills necessary for independent living
- Can live cooperatively in a structured environment
- Will commit to the hard work involved in collaborative living and employment

If you would like to refer a youth to this program please work with them to fill out our referral form. In order to make the process as fast as possible, we ask that you fax us: a completed referral form including the release of information (attached) and an updated resume if one is available.

Admission is based on:

- A capacity to engage in both the housing and employment components of the program
- Availability of beds

Eva's Phoenix Referral Information

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Recruitment will happen at various times throughout the year. Pertinent information regarding programs will be sent out quarterly. (E.g. Intake/recruitment periods, remuneration, general requirements)
- All programs are for youth who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, between the ages of 16 and 24 for internal candidates (those wishing to reside at Eva's Phoenix) and 16 and 29 for external candidates. Youth must have clear employment goals or have an interest in a program we are currently offering. Youth must be motivated to engage in employment programs.
- All youth participate in a 3 week Pre-Employment Program - During the pre-employment phase, candidates will participate in a number of pre-employment skills modules to enhance employability. This period is one that will involve reflection and self-assessment. This is mandatory for all candidates. Failure to participate fully in this phase of the program will indicate candidate is unready to proceed to the next phase of the program, work experience.
- Duration of Program: Programs vary in duration. 16-26 weeks.
- We offer a number of pre-apprenticeship programs. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age to enter into apprenticeship training. Entrance requirements for apprenticeship programs vary between Grade 10 and Grade 12 depending on the program, although you will find that most employers and unions require Grade 12 and a solid foundation in Mathematics, English and the Sciences.

Eva's Phoenix Referral Information

The Referral Process

1. Please complete the 3-page referral form (attached) including the Consent to Release Information on the bottom of p. 3 and fax it with a recent resume. Fax the completed referral form to Eva's Phoenix at 416-364-7533. Youth are required to provide 2 pieces of identification, including picture ID, and SIN card for their application interview. Please indicate on the referral form whether the interview should be booked through the referring agency or through the applicant.
2. Staff will make contact to book an application interview* – or to notify the youth of lack of availability – within one week of receiving the referral form.
3. When we hear from, or make contact with the youth, we will book the first available application interview appointment. The application appointments will last approximately 2-3 hours.
4. Once the application appointment is complete, some additional information is required before a decision regarding admission can be made. For instance, proof of transcripts, clarification of charges, and questions for referring workers.
5. Once the application interview is complete, the decision making process may take 1-3 weeks.
6. If there is no space at the time of referral, we will continue to book application interviews until we have a maximum number of 15 youth on our approved waiting list.
7. Once all the information has been acquired and a space is available then we will attempt to notify the youth as soon as possible regarding admission to Eva's Phoenix.
8. We will try and make contact with the youth twice within a 2-week period (at the last contact number given to us). If we do not hear back after the 2nd attempt then we will start calling the next person on the waiting list to move in.
9. We will keep completed applications in our archives for a period of 6 months during which time they can be re-activated by the youth or referring agency but another interview may be required prior to final approval.
10. If you have any questions in regards to employment and housing please call:
Nadine Kirton at 416-364-4716 ext 236.
If you have any questions in regards to employment only, please call:
Gilda Martens at 416-364-1674 ext 266.

Please note: An application interview is not a guarantee of admission. Youth are never told of a decision regarding admission at the application interview