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## NUY Wallflower Project and Financial Summary

**Homelessness is a multi-dimensional and serious problem throughout our nation, state, and city.** Through the state of Minnesota, on any given night, over 6,000 youth are homeless (Wilder, 2015) and Northfield United Way has identified that between 25 and 35 young people in our city alone fall within that distinction. Overall, youth under the age of 24 are the most at risk for experiencing homeless. Homeless, highly mobile, or unsheltered youth are all tracked differently within data sets collected through the federal government - yet the largest systemic problem goes beyond the fact that we don't have an accurate count, it speaks to the fact that the problem appears to be largely ignored by the average citizen enough to not make accuracy a priority.

Northfield Union of Youth (NUY) is pushing forth with efforts to be preventative and reactive to the often overlooked crisis of youth homelessness in our city. Youth homelessness is extremely complex and blends a host of mental, systemic, chemical, physical, familial, and social-emotional issues. **NUY believes in youth empowerment and the transformative benefits of equipping young people to effectively handle the challenges they face.** NUY has developed the Wallflower Project (formerly known as NUY Safe Homes) to intentionally seek out our youth who may not always come forward identifying as homeless because they are not explicitly sleeping outside - instead they are on friends' couches or floors, in their vehicles, or trading their bodies for a roof over their heads. Our youth in leadership positions have personally experienced homelessness and, therefore, have a unique outlook on our continued adaptation of a trauma-informed, safe, and accessible system that would provide meaningful solutions.

NUY's Wallflower Project is focused on a multi-tiered approach geared around ensuring youth are supported **before, during and into the transition to permanent, independent housing.**

1. **Formal host family model.** NUY is actively recruiting, training, and supporting host-families to provide a safe and caring home for homeless youth, many with trauma in their backgrounds. NUY is providing formal case management and supportive services to youth matched with a host family. We currently have 3 host homes ready to support our youth, with one actively hosting a young person.
2. **Informal hosting support.** NUY is providing formal support for youth and informal host families when hosting is already happening. This includes identifying youth staying with friends/family and providing support and best practiced guidance on the complexities of informally hosting/staying with friends or family.
3. **Youth-centric supportive services.** NUY provides supportive services through mentoring, tutoring, enrichment activities, and employment services to youth aging out of foster care or without a home due to the lack of affordable housing. While supportive services may seem outside the scope of our homelessness project, we know that in order

to ensure sustainability in housing, we must grow independent living skills for our program youth.

This multi-tiered model is an extremely cost-effective model that utilizes the existing strengths of the Northfield community, without adding additional capital infrastructure. We will continue to be open to, and receptive of other ideas or partnership opportunities from youth, adults, and community organizations to continue to build out resources for our young people struggling with homelessness.

**Budget:** The following represents the costs associated with the NUY Wallflower Project on an annual basis.

<b>Category</b> <i>Line item</i>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Administration</b>		
<i>Financial Administration</i>	2 hrs/mo x \$25/hr x 12 mos	\$600
<b>Operations</b>		
<i>Additional insurance</i>	Additional insurance premium to meet state of MN requirements for host home programs	\$1,334
<i>Background checks</i>	10 @ \$75 ea (for host families, volunteers, etc)	\$750
<i>Crisis cell phone line</i>	\$100/mo x 12 mos (staffed by NUY therapist and exec director)	\$1200
<b>Supportive Services</b>		
<i>Host Home Program Manager Wages</i>	Housing Coordinator as program and case manager providing youth-centric supportive services: \$25/hr x 2,000 hrs = \$50,000.	\$50,000
<i>Taxes</i>	7.65% x \$50,000	\$3,825
<i>Fringe</i>	Fringe benefits	\$5,280
<b>Total programmatic expenses</b>		<b>\$63,139</b>
<i>OEO Grant</i>	\$75,000 over 2 years = 37,500 a year	\$37,500
<i>Donations</i>	In Kind & Individual Donors	\$10,870

After we take into consideration our grant and focused donations, **we are left with an annual budget shortfall of \$15,639.** To make up for the deficit, we will need to pull necessary resources from other capacity limited programs, which is not a sustainable strategy. As we continue to educate the community on the need, we expect to find support in more and more places, as we are actively looking for additional funding through private donations and grants. The Northfield HRA, from the beginning, has provided incredibly generous support and we are grateful for the opportunity to continue our partnership to leverage our forward momentum in working to meet the housing needs of Northfield's homeless youth population.

A continued, consistent partnership with the HRA will not only demonstrate the community's faith in the youth themselves, but will further communicate to all of Northfield that the NUY Wallflower Project has merit and focus to help us all grow stronger together.