

**Your gift of \$10.62
provides a day of
safety and care for
a young person
in need.**



A Teen Urgently Needs Safety and Warmth Today!

Right now, a teen experiencing homelessness desperately needs your help.

It's cold outside, and a teen staying on the streets urgently needs a safe and warm place to go.

Your special gift will provide a young person with the safety, warmth, and care they need, today.

Winter is the hardest time of year to be staying outside with nowhere safe to go. And with record numbers of youth staying on the streets and limited shelter

availability your gift is needed now more than ever.

For just \$10.62, will you please provide safety and care for a young person facing homelessness?

Your generosity will be the first step for a youth to get back on their feet and find stability.

Thanks to you, a teen will receive safety, counseling, job coaching, and other life-changing support.

It all starts with your gift today.

Our Mission & Vision

Our mission is to empower teenagers, young adults, and their families to make and sustain positive changes through prevention, intervention, and life skills services.

Stay connected



@SpectrumVT
Facebook.com/SpectrumVermont



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SpectrumVT.org

To protect the privacy of the youth you have helped, photos, names, and other identifying details may have been changed.

PROVIDE SAFETY AND WARMTH TODAY!

☒ **YES, Mark! I want to provide a young person with warmth, safety, and other life-changing care.**

Here is my gift of:

- ☐ \$31.86 to provide 3 days of warmth, safety, and care
- ☐ \$74.34 to provide 7 days of warmth, safety, and care
- ☐ \$127.44 to provide 12 days of warmth, safety, and care
- ☐ \$297.36 to provide 28 days of warmth, safety, and care
- ☐ \$_____ to provide as much help as possible



To give online visit: spectrumvt.org/donate/winter

Spectrum Sun

Your gifts at work for teenagers & young adults

THANK YOU

This issue of the *Spectrum Sun* features stories of ways your gift made a difference for youth!

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Your Gift Helped Jason Start a New Chapter

Jason was living in his car but you helped give him shelter

Jason was just 19 when his mom was evicted. With nowhere to go, he lived out of an old car that did not have heat.

Jason was feeling hopeless—unable to find a safe and warm place to go or provide stability for his young daughter—until he found the Spectrum warming shelter.

Because of your generosity, Jason was able to have a safe and warm place

to stay at night. He also received the support he needed to get back on his feet and into housing.

After spending some time at the warming shelter, Jason was able to move into Spectrum's transitional housing where he finally had his own room, bed, and dresser. It felt surreal at first to have his own space.

It was here that Jason finally started

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THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING SAFETY AND WARMTH TO YOUTH IN NEED



MARK'S MISSION MOMENT

You've probably heard that young adults today need more help than ever from their parents. Many help their kids with rent, tuition, and bills well into their twenties.

But most of the youth who come through our doors don't have parents who can do that. Either they aren't in the picture, or they can't afford it.

That's where YOU come in. Thanks to you, our youth are getting the help they need to build a life for themselves.

Just recently I heard from a young person who is so thankful for your support. He is a part of our new Direct Cash Transfer Pilot Program.

He shared, "It has helped take stress off my shoulders, improved my mental health, and helped me in many ways. Money isn't everything, but it has certainly helped."

What a big impact this is in the lives of young people who once were homeless – and nine out of the ten youth participating now are housed. **Thank you for supporting our youth!**

With Gratitude,

Mark

Mark Redmond
Executive Director



You Helped Avery Find Safety

Your generosity provided a teen with safety when they needed it the most

Avery is a high schooler who struggled with gender identity and often felt alone and unsupported by family at home.

The victim of verbal abuse, Avery was feeling isolated and unsure of where to go. Thankfully, through their school's partnership with Spectrum, Avery learned about the programs available and how they could receive help.

Because of your support, Avery was able to find a safe and welcoming environment at the St. Albans Drop-In Center.

Avery came to the Drop-In Center and participated in a LGBTQ+ group. It was uncomfortable at first but with time, Avery began to share with others and open up.

And thanks to you, Avery became connected with a case manager and received the support they needed to escape the difficult situation at home. Now they've moved into a loving and accepting home.

Avery has gone from a shy, frightened, and softly spoken teenager, to a confident and happy young person—all thanks to YOU!

Thank you for showing youth like Avery that they are important and valued. Your generosity and kindness helps young people find safety so they can have a hopeful future.

A Day at the Drop-In Center - Thanks to YOU

Your gift of support and care through the eyes of a teenager...

We hear stories daily from youth who have found hope and happiness because of your support. But we can't always share them. More than anything we want you to know how youth are impacted by your generosity.

So, here's an example of one teen's experience:

“On a cold morning, I stood outside the door to the Burlington Drop-In Center waiting for it to open. I had spent the night sleeping in my tent at the park, and I couldn't wait to go inside.

When the doors opened, I was greeted by smiling faces. I was nervous because I hadn't been there before.

But I had heard from a friend that I'd be safe at the Drop-In Center.

I grabbed a bite to eat and found a place to sit. It wasn't long before someone quietly joined me. I was hesitant at first, but they seemed nice.

I learned that I could stay until the doors closed at 5:45pm. There was a simple intake form that I could fill out when I was ready,

but there was no pressure.

For now, I could just relax and decompress. Honestly, I was just thankful to have a safe and warm place to be.

Later, I took a hot shower, did my laundry, and took a nap. Before long, some of the other people were in the kitchen baking cookies together.

When the smell of chocolate chip cookies filled the room, I wandered over to grab one. **It was in this moment that I realized it was the first time I truly felt safe in months.**

I spent the better part of the day just observing and listening. My friend was right—the Drop-In Center really did feel safe, without judgment, and like I could get the support I needed to build for myself the future I longed for.”

Thank you for providing youth a safe and judgment-free place to go. Your generosity helps keep the Drop-In Center doors open 7 days a week so youth can get the care they need.

You Helped Jason Create a Home for His Daughter! *Continued from pg. 1*

to feel comfortable, truly safe, and had hope for the future. Thanks to you, Jason found safety and care when he needed it the most.

After working three jobs to save money and create a foundation for himself, Jason has moved into an apartment of his own! He is so thankful for the guidance and kindness he experienced at Spectrum - thanks to your support!

Jason is so proud that his daughter has her own room now—her own space where she can play with her toys. It's a great feeling for Jason to be able to have

this stability not only for himself, but especially for her. Thank you for making this possible!

Jason's time with Spectrum showed him that he was not alone. He says without your support, "I would have not known where to start and it would have taken me at least 5 years to get to where I am today. I'm grateful for Spectrum. Anytime anyone is in a similar situation, that's where I'm sending them."

Learn how you can provide
one day of safety