



ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT:

Women's Center Youth & Family Services (WCYFS)

The homelessness crisis is one of the most pressing matters being addressed in San Joaquin County today. Amidst the population of homeless individuals are an often-overlooked group: the unsheltered youth. At some point, many of them have relied on the compassionate support and impactful services provided by the Women's Center Youth and Family Services (WCYFS). Guided by their mission to, "build a stronger community by acting as a catalyst to end violence and youth homelessness," WCYFS tirelessly strives to save lives and restore hope in our community's most vulnerable populations.

Consequences of homeless youth can be dire, potentially resulting in mental health problems, substance use, criminal activity, and barriers to education and employment. To combat this, programs set in place by WCYFS such as the Safe House, Opportunity House, and The Spot, offer critical resources for youths in need of shelter and support. These specialized programs range from offering long-term services such as shelter and preparation for independent living, to short-term services where meals, hygiene services, case management, counseling, and therapy are provided.

WCYFS also provides mental health services, which can be lifesaving. According to nhchc.org, more than 40% of homeless teens struggle with depression and are three times more likely to attempt suicide than teens who live at home. Along with providing individual therapy, WCYFS offers a mentoring and support program for high-risk youth with emotional and behavioral challenges. Within the past year, they've provided over 1,000 sessions of services. With all of their pivotal work to change lives for the better, it's no surprise that WCYFS is revered as a safe haven and place of healing for so many.

