

Residential Program: PASSAGES

When at-risk teens need support to transition back into a more traditional home life and family-living situation, Passages is the program that helps get them ready.

Passages is a six bedroom residential home in an average Calgary neighbourhood. It's designed to be just like any other home on the street in order to create a feeling of genuine community and family among teens who live here.

Staying an average of six to nine months, teens are encouraged to develop healthy patterns and regular routines. This relationship-based transition service works on building a lasting feeling of trust and security with troubled teens, while teaching them important life skills.

Residents help make meals, or play games together, and special focus is placed on outdoor activities. Nature walks, urban gardening, community activities are all ways the program instills a sense of calm and harmony.

Teens aged 13 to 17 can take part in the program. Teens are referred to Passages by Child and Family Services for a number of reasons including family conflict, substance use, mental health challenges, etc.

Passages is focused on graduating participants on their own schedules and when they're ready to move on. Some residents have returned years later to thank the staff for their caring and compassion in a difficult period of their life.

Funded / Accessed by:

Region 3 Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority.

“The highlight of being at PASSAGES is the OUTINGS, going to WILDERNESS settings and being in NATURE.”

~Former Enviros Client~

Teens living at Passages are given one-on-one attention, though they're also able to interact with others in the small group setting. Learning and enjoying hobbies such as woodworking, crafts, gardening, music and reading is part of helping these teens transition to a family setting.

The Passages program works to ensure that all youth feel safe and have the appropriate opportunities to enhance healthy development. Youth are encouraged to get involved with social activities of their choice. From this, youth gain the personal and social achievements that empower them with a heightened sense of self-esteem.

The therapeutic programming offered at Passages, not only focuses on cultivating each youth's sense of self-worth, it helps families learn how to cope with behavior and parenting challenges.



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