Street Outreach Program

The purpose of outreach engagement is to build trust and rapport, encouraging the use of appropriate services for youth and connecting them with other service providers as needed such as mental health support, trafficking prevention and help, physical health support, and more. Attention Homes Street Outreach Team is often the first point of contact for youth accessing our services. Our Outreach team, consisting of our Street Outreach and Drop-In Manager and two trained volunteers, seek out youth on the streets of Boulder County and the surrounding communities five days per week. We aim to be as consistent as possible, in accordance with our fidelity to evidence-based practices and trauma-informed care, so that youth know they can count on our services. Most of our street outreach takes place in the City of Boulder, the largest city in Boulder County and the area with the highest concentration of homeless youth. Outreach teams also cover the surrounding county including Longmont, Lafayette, Nederland, Lyons and Erie depending on the identified need in those areas. In 2018, we met nearly 700 youth on the streets of Boulder County.

The Street Outreach Team provides meals, snacks, and water to youth they meet, including items like breakfast burritos, sack lunches, granola bars, and other food that are easily transported to help youth avoid malnutrition and stay healthy. In addition, the team brings basic sanitation and first aid supplies, clothing, such as new socks, underwear, and t-shirts, toiletries, sex kits, bleach kits, and seasonal survival gear such as hand warmers, space blankets, socks, warm hats, and gloves in winter months, or hats and sunblock during the summer. Our Street Outreach Team is heavily branded, with matching t-shirts, bags, and informational materials, so that youth can readily identify our team and feel confident as they connect with us.

Our team distributes “Source Cards”, small postcards to reflect our services and activities. Source Cards have a map to the location of our drop-in center and emergency overnight shelter, hours of operation, and multiple contact points (phone, email, text, and website/social media). Attention Homes’ website also has a Source page with links for visitors to access help if needed. That page lists information about our drop-in center and emergency youth shelter along with additional resources including the National Runaway Safeline and National Human Trafficking hotline, CoNEHT hotline, domestic violence shelter, medical, mental health, education and multiple local services such as nightly meals and emergency shelter information for individuals.