

# Shine a Light on Youth Homelessness

## Campout 2023



Katherine's Place - under construction at 562 Tranquille Rd.

## HELLO CAMPER!

We need your urgent assistance to shine a light on youth homelessness and ensure youth in our community have safe and appropriate housing. You can support us in this mission by registering for A Way Home Kamloops' 7th Annual Campout to End Youth Homelessness, taking place on December 8th-9th 2023. Join us in-person or from your own backyard and take part in this life changing event that directly supports youth in need of housing and services in Kamloops.

## THE ISSUE

- There is currently a lack of supportive housing for youth in our community, AWHK has an average of 60 youth on the waitlist for housing
- Youth are aging out of Government care at age 19 without Supports
- Youth are living in unsafe/unstable homes and living rough outside
- The longer a youth has been homeless the more trauma they experience, and the more likely they are to continue to be homeless or become homeless again later in life

To learn more about  
Campout 2023 visit  
[awayhomekamloops.com](http://awayhomekamloops.com)

## THE SOLUTION

- Youth need appropriate housing and supports
- 2023 Campout donations will go directly towards housing and programs at AWHK
- AWHK currently has 30 beds with supports for youth, with 39 more coming in 2024
- *Katherine's Place* will help youth achieve their goals towards employment, training, education, health, mental health, recreation, life skills and anything else they need in order to get ready for independent housing



## HERE'S HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- You can join us at McDonald Park where we will camp and have activities throughout the night
- Or you can create your own version of camping at home and join by Zoom
- In the past, campers joined from the store fronts of their businesses, backyards, front porches, balconies, cars, and even from their living rooms
- Youth homelessness is a spectrum from sleeping rough outside to couch surfing and being precariously or inappropriately housed
- You can camp in cardboard boxes, tarps, tents, blankets on the floor, on a couch, or in your car



Campers from Campout 2023 sleeping under the trees

## HOW TO GET STARTED:

- **Step 1:** Register online at this link:
  - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/a-way-home-kamloops-society/p2p/Campout2023/>
- **Step 2:** Fill out the forms attached to this package and email them to [admin@awayhomekamloops.com](mailto:admin@awayhomekamloops.com)
  - (forms to return include, Camper Registration, Waiver & Photo consent)

- **Step 3:** Collect pledges and donations!
  - Set a fundraising goal & make a plan! Get creative with fundraising & tell your friends, coworkers, & family about this important cause & have them join in!
  - Donations can be made online to your team or camper profile, or via cash/cheques made out to A Way Home Kamloops (pledge tracking form provided) All donations over \$20 will receive a tax receipt.

## WHY YOU SHOULD CREATE A TEAM

- Creating a team is a great way to unite for a cause, gather your co-workers, family or friends and come together to shine a light on youth homelessness
- This year we will be highlighting exceptional teams on our social media, so get creative, come up with a descriptive team name, and share on your own social media
- You can challenge other teams and create some healthy competition to raise more funds
- There are different milestones teams can reach! Bronze: \$500, Silver: \$750, Gold: \$1500, Platinum: \$3,000 & Diamond: 6,000! (each donation over \$20 will receive a charitable tax receipt)

**We can't wait to see you at Campout 2023 !**

**Contact us to learn more at:**

[admin@awayhomekamloops.com](mailto:admin@awayhomekamloops.com)

250-828-0446

A Way Home Kamloops Society

653 Victoria St.

Kamloops, BC, V2C 2B3

Charitable Number: 75431 9689 RR0001



## WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU CAMPOUT

We can not pretend that this one night of sleeping outside is exactly what it is like to be homeless; this is just a glimpse into what it might feel like. We provide many luxuries such as snacks, warming stations, and lighting. We also make sure everyone is safe by providing staff, First Aid attendants and security. There are still a few things to be aware of:

### **Weather!**

The weather is unpredictable, it can be very cold or surprisingly warm, it can be wet and it may snow. You will want to be prepared with layers and options for changes in weather. Water proof footwear and warm socks are a must!

### **Sleep Pattern Changes**

Where ever you camp your sleep patterns will likely be disrupted. You may get very little or no sleep so you may want to plan your next day accordingly.

### **Support**

There will be support on site. AWHK staff will be at the park along with Saint John's Ambulance and Security Services. We will provide some activities, snacks, hot dogs and hot chocolate.

## CAMPOUT SCHEDULE

### **3-5pm - Arrive & Set Up**

Come to the park before dark to prepare or set up at home with everything you need.

### **5:30-6:30 - Presentations**

Live (outdoor) and over Zoom discussion and presentation on the issues of youth homelessness

### **6:30-9pm - Activities & Mingling**

Complete your set up, get settled in, take part in activities, snack, and get to know your fellow campers

Use this link to join from home

### ZOOM LINK

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88946244663>

Use this link to set up your camper page or donate

### DONATIONS LINK

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/a-way-home-kamloops-society/p2p/Campout2023>



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Can children Campout?** Yes! If children under 19 years of age are with their legal guardian they are welcome to Campout either at the park or at home.

**What does safety and security in the park look like?** You will be sleeping in an open park but you can choose to sleep close to the well lit areas or further out for a more private experience. Security on site is walking the perimeter of the park all night. St. John's Ambulance will be on site all night.

**Can I sleep in a tent?** Yes! Youth homelessness comes in many forms so be creative or play it safe, it is up to you!

**Where, when and how do we set up our camps?** You can start setting up as early as 3pm on December 8th. There is parking near the Gazebo, and around the perimeter, you may want to choose your camp site and then park nearby. You are responsible for bringing in and out any of your camp supplies but we will have some large cardboard boxes on site for your use. You can camp anywhere in the park, some areas are well lit and active with campers, some areas are further out, darker and quieter. You can set up your teams tents in a group or spread out and mix and mingle with other campers.

**Where is the bathroom?** Parkview Community Center is located at the corner of the park, it is an indoor facility where you can also warm up (hot tea station provided) but it can be a bit of a walk (up to 3-5 minutes) depending on where you set up your camp

**What should I bring?** Layers of clothes, a flashlight, your phone all charged up so you can post on social media, your tent, box, or tarp with sleeping bag and blankets. You may also want to bring a water bottle, medications or special snacks if you have dietary restrictions

**Who else will be there?** All the best people! There are a wide range of campers from individuals to work teams and friend groups; people who just learned about AWHK to people who have camped out every year for the last 7 years!

**Substance use on site?** This is a public park and no smoking, vaping or consumption of alcohol or substances is permitted on site

**What if I decide I can't handle it?** There is no shame in that and you are welcome to leave any time at all! We just ask that you take anything you brought with you out when you leave

**What happens after the event?** We leave the donation site open until mid January so people can pledge their support for your experience into the new year. Once we have a total we will send that out to all the campers and broadcast it on our social media with special recognition for Campers who did an exceptional job!



## Camper Registration

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (If representing an organization during this event):

\_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone Number (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**CAMPOUT TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS – RELEASE FROM ALL LIABILITY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby release, and A Way Home Kamloops Society (as well as heirs, executors, and successors) from any and all claims for damages arising from any accident or injuries, direct or indirect, which are caused or arise from my activity in participating in the Campout To End Youth Homelessness fundraiser put on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> until Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

If I am a child or young person under the age of nineteen, my parent or legal guardian will sign this waiver on my behalf.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CAMP OUT FOR HOMELESS YOUTH – PHOTO AND VIDEO WAIVER**

*A Way Home Kamloops Society* uses photographs and videos for projects that are promotional, advertising, commercial, educational, research, and/or archival in nature. As such, *A Way Home Kamloops Society* collects, on an ongoing basis, individual and group photos in and around our region. These photos and videos are used for the promotion of the work that we do serving youth.

We ask for permission to use your photo, or your child’s photo, in promotional material to promote this event. If I am a child or young person under the age of nineteen, my parent or legal guardian will sign this waiver on my behalf.

I waive ownership of any photographic records taken by *A Way Home Kamloops Society* and agree to permit the use of my image, or my child’s image, (in photographic, digital, or electronic form) for *A Way Home Kamloops Society* publications, posters, web-site or other media, without limitation, and agree not to make any claim for misappropriation of personality, breach of privacy, or other loss or damage in respect thereof. I also understand that *A Way Home Kamloops Society* may provide these photographs for use by a third party or designee with whom they may choose to associate with for joint marketing purposes.

I further agree to inclusion of my name(s), or my child’s name(s):  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature