



RAFT Profile

Who do we Help?

The RAFT focuses on youth in high risk situations:

Youth who are homeless

Youth who are in danger of dropping out of school or engaging in unhealthy life style choices

Youth who cannot access current community support services

Youth without stable family, peer or community supports

What is the RAFT?

The RAFT operates a resource centre, emergency shelter and community outreach services for at risk and homeless youth in Niagara.

With the help of our partners, the RAFT focuses on helping at risk youth receive the support they need to stay in Niagara. Our services target youth without secure housing. By activating a social safety net, youth remain connected to their home community.

Many young people who come to The RAFT live on their own without adequate financial resources, others live on the street and many come from unstable home situations. Unemployment, broken

families and early life trauma are the realities of our clients. At The RAFT, we are trying to help break this cycle.

The RAFT is a non-profit organization that relies on private and community donations. Our donors come from many walks of life, including private citizens, faith communities, local businesses, industry, service clubs, schools and community organizations.

With your help youth learn valuable life skills and receive help to find safe housing, go back to school, enrol in training programs, find employment and acquire a special safety net.

Our Vision for the Future

The RAFT contributes to the welfare of our community by helping at risk youth become independent and self-sufficient, strengthening their emotional and social well being and acting as a referral source that reconnects youth to the community.

The RAFT provides a safe place that is free from violence, intimidation, exploitation, discrimination, drugs and alcohol. The RAFT focuses on helping youth make positive life style changes. With the help of trained staff, these young people can access services and supports in the community.

We believe

That working together, one step at a time, **we can make a difference.**

SERVICES AT 17 CENTRE ST



Resource Drop In Centre

Open 7 days a week
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

A safe place to get together and access support.

- Hot and Nutritious Meals
- Social & Recreation Programs
- Phone and Internet Access
- Clothing Closet
- Shower and Laundry Facilities
- Social Support

Steps to Independent Living Program

One on one and group activities are provided to encourage independence, self sufficiency and improve self esteem.

Activities include:

- Job Readiness
- Housing Help Search
- Crisis Counselling
- Community Referrals
- Life Skills Support
- Community Outings
- Social Programs
- Recreation Activities
- Advocacy

The Hostel Open 24/7

A safe place where youth can get their life back on track.

Services include:

- Overnight Housing
- Hot & Nutritious Meals
- Community Reintegration Plan
- Independent Living Support
- Laundry Facilities
- Social Support
- Case Management

Services are based on the principles of empowerment, dignity and respect and provided in a caring environment that encourages independence .

When clients feel in control of their lives, it builds self-esteem and confidence and empowers them to become fuller community members.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Development

Community development initiatives empower youth to make positive changes in their neighbourhoods. The programs are designed to engage youth in stressed neighbourhoods by fostering connections and partnerships. Activities are developed by youth community members. Activities include community bio fuel projects, neighbourhood gardens, the development of neighbourhood houses and block neighbourhood get togethers.

After School Programs

**Monday to Friday
3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

These programs are part of a United Way initiative to revitalize and support stressed neighbourhoods in Niagara. The program offers free and accessible recreation, leisure, and educational opportunities that foster independence and positive community relationships amongst the youth.

These programs are part of the Niagara Neighborhood Awakening Project

Youth Reconnect

Access Monday to Friday during regular business hours

Designed to help youth without secure housing access services and supports in their own community. By helping youth to remain in the community, these young people can give back, both socially and economically, to their community.

Available in
Fort Erie—Port Colborne
Welland
St. Catharines
Grimsby & West Niagara

Services can be accessed by calling the Centre at 905-984-4365.

The RAFT is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. After hours and weekend emergency support is available by calling 905-984-4365.

2008 2009 CONTRIBUTORS

Our Visionaries

Regional Municipality of Niagara
United Way of St. Catharines & District
Prevent Challenge Foundation

Our Community Pillars

Canadian Tire Financial Services
Government of Canada
Maycourt Club of St. Catharines
Niagara Community Foundation
O'Brien Jackson Family Foundation
T.A.L.K. - Niagara Regional Police Department

Our Community Guardians

Canadian Tire Financial Services ~ Employee Association
Covenant Christian Reformed Church
Knox Presbyterian Church
Niagara Association of Realtors
Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation
Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore
Silver Spire United Church
St. John's Anglican Church

Our Community Builders

Jim & Maureen Aitken
Marion E. Cross
Anne Mirynech
First Ontario Credit Union

Our Community Builders (continued)

Fonthill United Church
Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines
Maranatha Christian Reformed Church
Niagara Prosthetics & Orthotics Corporation
Rotary Club of St. Catharines
Scottlea Presbyterian Church
St. Catharines Twinning Association
St. Thomas' Church
Trinity United Church

Our Helpers

Pauline Aitken
Graham & Marion Angle
Maurice & Karen Charbonneau
Manfred & Lorraine Rudolph
BMO Employee Charitable Foundation
Canada Border Services Agency
Canadian Federation of University Women
Fairview Mennonite Brethren Church
Fenwick United Church
First Grantham United Church
Jordan Station United Church
Mountainview United Church
Niagara Community Foundation
Sir Winston Churchill Secondary
St. Alfred's of Rome
St. Giles Presbyterian
Vineland United Church

How can you help?

1. Make a donation to the RAFT.
2. Arrange a fundraising event through your service club or association.
3. Volunteer your time.



Operated by
Niagara
Resource
Service for
Youth

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