

## Stoughton Based Briarpatch Services

### Statement of Purpose

Provide a temporary shelter and related services in Stoughton for youth who become homeless or runaway

### Goals

Reunite youth with their families whenever possible.

Reduce the number of homeless youth in the Stoughton area.

Help youth develop healthy alternatives to running away from home.

### Values

Stable and supportive homes encourage regular school attendance and high school graduation.

Youth are valuable assets who represent the future of our community.



### Elements of the Briarpatch Program

#### Screening and Assessment

Youth between ages of 12 and 17 who are referred for services are screened to determine appropriateness for placement in a Volunteer Host Home. Whenever possible, parents or other family members participate in the screening process.

#### Temporary Shelter (Volunteer Host Home)

Volunteer Host Homes provide temporary shelter for teens who need a respite from their home life, or for runaway or homeless youth who urgently need a place to stay. Volunteer Host Home providers are licensed by the state to house youth for up to 14 days, with the typical placement being one to two days.

#### Family Counseling Services

Short term family counseling is provided by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Volunteer Coach. Families are assisted in finding long term counseling resources.

#### Twenty-four Hour Help-Line

Briarpatch operates a 24 –hour help-line available to youth and their families. Help-line workers provide information about Briarpatch services and community resources, and also provide informal counseling as appropriate.

### We Need Your Help!

#### Donate financial support.

The annual cost of the Stoughton Based Briarpatch program is \$4,000. To donate, send a gift to “Youth Services of Southern WI, Inc” with a note on the check that states “designated for Stoughton Based Briarpatch Services.” Please mail to Casey Behrend, Executive Director, Youth Services of Southern WI, 1955 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704.

#### Become a Host Home Volunteer

To apply call Ann Bohlman, Briarpatch, 245-2550 Ext, 113 to share your interest and learn more about the program. You will receive an application to complete to begin the licensing process.

#### Become a Volunteer Coach

A coach helps teens and families work through disputes or conflicts that may be making home life unsafe for one or more members of the family. A coach receives 40 hours of training and the support of a Stoughton based Briarpatch Counselor. Call Jen Berkel, Briarpatch, 245-2550 Ext, 230 to share your interest and learn more about this opportunity.