



## Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter



Ever since Joe Kreisler, the founder of Preble Street, saw the first teens come to the Resource Center more than 20 years ago, Preble Street has been working to create and improve services to homeless, street involved, and at-risk youth in Portland.

An integral component of Preble Street Teen Services, the Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter welcomes homeless teens to a beautiful space with:

**24 BEDS** and a flexible floor plan to ensure shelter, safety, and appropriate accommodations for all youth, including quiet and private space for studying and counseling and common space for groups and activities.

**24-HOUR ACCESS** to reduce risk of exposure to exploitive and predatory street culture and to provide services based on best practices for an especially vulnerable population.

**A CHANCE FOR A BETTER LIFE** with staff working across sites to provide consistent support, build trusting relationships, provide opportunities for youth development activities, and coordinate service planning.

A low-barrier state-licensed emergency overnight shelter, the Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter serves homeless and street-involved youth ages 12 through 20 and ensures that homeless youth not only find a warm welcome and have their basic needs met but also are connected to appropriate resources.

Housing support staff assess the needs of youth, provide crisis intervention and individual support, make referrals, encourage and facilitate family reunification, supervise informal activities, coordinate with Preble Street and its collaborative partners to address client needs, interests, and challenges, and—most important—provide trustworthy, respectful, and caring space where youth can begin to heal and grow and dream.

*"One of the hardest things about being homeless is when someone asks, 'Why don't you just go home?' and I have to say, because my father beats me."*

*"I can't explain to anyone just how much Preble Street Teen Services has helped me get myself to where I want to be in my life. You could never know unless you walk a mile in my shoes."*