

**“I HAVE AMBITION”**

HELP A YOUNG PERSON FULFIL THEIR AMBITION



We will welcome your enquiry and will be happy to discuss any aspect of the community host project with you, including the application process. Remember, you won't be committing yourself to anything at this stage.

Printed in England. Design by 22 Design Ltd London



**IT PAYS TO BECOME A  
COMMUNITY HOST**

HAVE YOU ROOM IN YOUR LIFE AND HOME?

**“I HAVE  
POTENTIAL”**

SUPPORT A YOUNG PERSON  
TO FULFIL THEIR GOALS



For more information call today: 020 7501 8016 or email [community.host@southlondonymca.org.uk](mailto:community.host@southlondonymca.org.uk)

**South London YMCA Community Hosts are people from all walks of life and backgrounds providing a room in their home to young people aged between 16-18 years old. We want to recruit adults who can provide the support and commitment that will help young people to make the transition to independence and fulfil their potential.**

## **BECOMING A SOUTH LONDON YMCA COMMUNITY HOST**

### **Who can be a Community Host?**

This is when you offer a room in your home, in a safe homely setting to a young person. They will need your support with some tasks. You will need good communications skills and a sense of humour.

We want to attract host families or individuals who can provide a safe and protective environment. You could be a single parent, living with a partner or on your own, but you must have an interest and concern for the welfare of young people.

### **As long as you are able to offer: -**

- A spare room
- An interest in helping young people achieve
- And live in South London

### **What kind of young people need host placements?**

The young people come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, but for one reason or another, they cannot live with their own families. Some have had challenging life experiences, which make it difficult to move easily to independence. They need responsible

adults around them who are sensitive to their needs and who can support and inspire them to achieve their full potential.

A community host placement is also intended to keep young people in a safe and friendly environment, whilst mediation takes place to help them to return to their family home where this is appropriate.

### **Why would we like to hear from you?**

Maybe it's because you want to make a difference to a young person's future prospects. Could it be that you are passionate about young people and want to help them reach their full potential. Is it that you have some understanding about how to encourage self-confidence and help young people develop and achieve their goals? You will offer an environment to help the young person to make informed decisions about their future.

### **Do I get paid for being a host?**

You will receive a weekly rent for the room and an additional payment for the support you provide to the young person.

### **How do I become an approved host?**

You need to live in South London. Following your application a worker will contact you to arrange to visit you at home to begin the assessment process. As you would expect, references will be taken, including enhanced police checks and a health check with your GP. The amount of time it takes to be approved as a community host can vary but will generally take up to 3 months.

### **What support will I receive?**

You will receive regular visits and support from the Community Host Manager. All young people will have a full-time support worker. There will be regular meetings and reviews of support plans for the young person. The workers will be able to help you resolve any difficulties that may arise.

You will also be provided with training and ongoing support. A tailor made package of training will be provided to help you deal more confidently with situations which may be unfamiliar to you. There will also be the opportunity to attend a support group for community hosts.

### **Will I meet the young person before they move in?**

All host placements are planned. This means we will match hosts to young people. Before a placement is made you will have an opportunity to meet the young person and decide with them, and their support worker, whether your home is the right place for them to live.

### **What happens if the placement doesn't work out?**

Most problems between young people and their hosts are resolved positively. However, if problems persist, and a placement breaks down, an alternative placement will be found for the young person. The young person's support worker and the Community Host Manager will help in this process.

### **How do I apply to become a community host?**

We suggest the first step is to have an informal chat with the Community Host Manager at the South London YMCA. Tel: **020 7501 8016** or email: **community.host@southlondonymca.org.uk**