

SPRING, 2025



The HOST Post

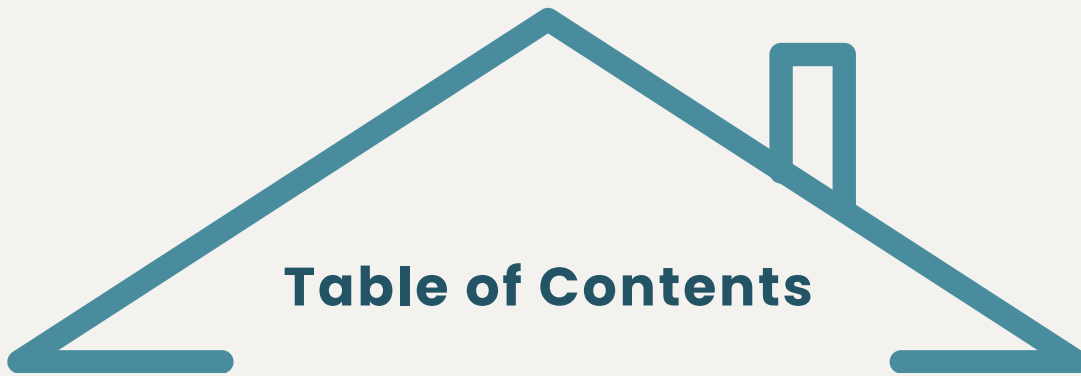


Table of Contents

1. Opening Page
2. Message from Libby
3. Summer break needs
4. Join the Board!
5. Gratitude & News
6. Get Involved with HOST



Housing Options for Students Today



Message from Libby



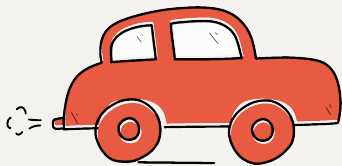
One of the questions we're asked most often at HOST is: *Why are college students homeless?* The answer is complex. Students experiencing homelessness face a mix of challenges—family crises, financial hardship, lack of support—that lead to housing instability. No two stories are the same, which is why we work closely with each student to determine the best path forward for them to find and sustain permanent housing, enabling them to continue their college education.

Trent is a Wake Tech student who was referred to HOST for help with housing. He was attending classes at two different Wake Tech campuses and working while couch surfing with friends. HOST was able to help Trent find a room in a shared housing situation, which helped stabilize his housing and allowed him to focus on school and work. Shortly after Trent moved into his new housing, he needed a car repair, but it would cost more than he had saved. Thanks to support from our community, HOST was able to cover the cost of new brakes and tires. Now Trent can safely get to school and work—and stay on track with his goals.

Transportation insecurity is a hurdle for many students in our program. Whether it's the high cost of car ownership or limited access to public transportation, these barriers can keep students from maintaining affordable housing, reliable work, and academic success. At HOST, we meet these needs in practical ways: by assisting with car repairs, offering gift cards for gas or ride-hailing services, helping students navigate public transportation, and providing donated bicycles.

If you'd like to help students like Trent stay on the road to stability, consider making a financial gift to our emergency fund, donating gift cards for Uber, Lyft, or gas stations, or providing mechanical services.

Together, we can help students move from surviving to thriving.





Summer Break Is *Here!*

For many college students, this is a time for fun in the sun, travel, and spending time with family.

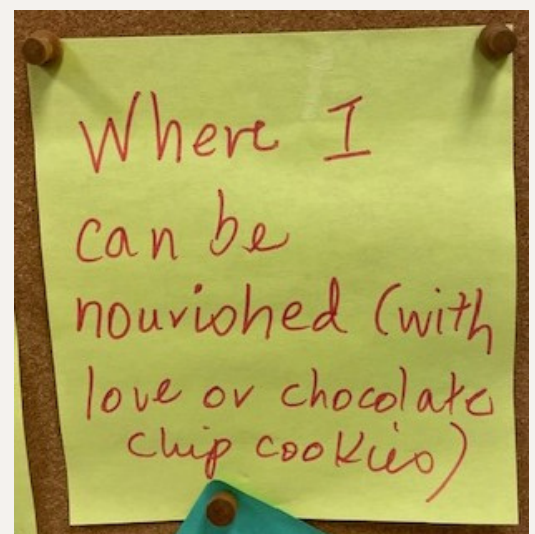
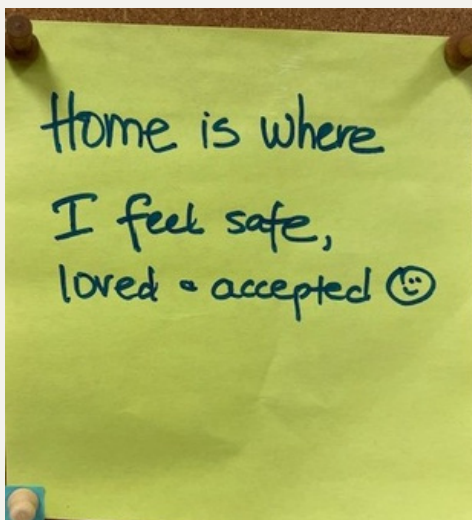
But summer break is a vulnerable time for college students without stable housing. *We have a waiting list for summer hosting.*



Support a student during break

- **Host a Student:** Offer break housing! Contact Libby for information at libbystephens@hostnc.org
- **Donate for Housing:** \$80 covers one night in a hotel for a student as they wait for a host home to open. Donate here: <https://www.hostnc.org/donate>
- **Provide gift cards** to grocery stores, restaurants, food/ride services. Contact libbystephens@hostnc.org to arrange the donation.

We asked students what “home” means.
Here are some of their responses:



Meet Board Members

Jessica Gunn is the Director of HR at Haven House, with 25+ years' experience working in nonprofits clinically with families and adolescents.

What motivated you to give your time, passion, and expertise to HOST?

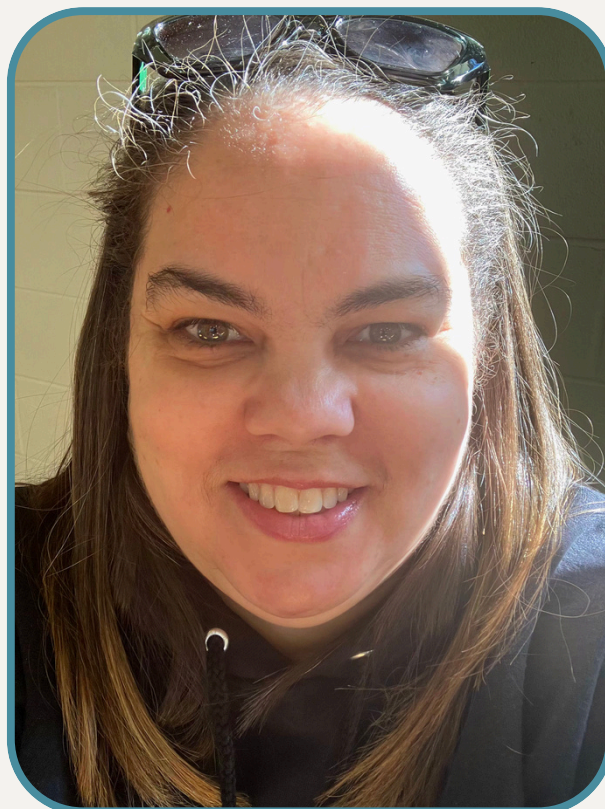
During my career I have consistently observed a gap in resources for youth from age 18-24. HOST is a resource that helps fill this gap. I am super inspired by a student who is motivated to attend college even while experiencing unstable housing. These are the youth we need as leaders in the community. I am happy to offer my time and expertise to support these youth in their success.

Which of the HOST values resonates most for you?

Radical Hospitality; welcoming all students without judgement or barriers.

Other than housing security, what's a cause that you're passionate about?

My experience working in human services has led me to a passion for people -- adults and children -- who are experiencing adversity related to an intellectual disability or severe and persistent mental illness. I find that these individuals are often misunderstood and overlooked and have so much to offer communities.



Interested in contributing to the HOST mission? Join our Board!!

Contact Mary Haskett (mehaskett@gmail.com)



Gratitude & News Highlights



We are grateful for the support of the Forvis Mazars Foundation. With this grant, we can continue to support local college students.

Many thanks to TowneBank for their investment in the HOST mission! We greatly appreciate their contribution to the success of hosted students.



IKF planning session at HOST

We're thrilled to be selected for pro bono consultation from In-Kind Friends. *"By working together to provide pro bono interim time and talent, we amplify our clients' community impact and improve our corner of the world."*

A HOST student was featured in the Technician, NC State's student newspaper. Check it out!



Student meeting in the HOST space at Pullen

Chloe Courtney Bohl of INDY will hold a listening session at HOST to hear from students who have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity. She wants to understand their experience to best represent them in news coverage.

Students from each of the 6 colleges in Raleigh advocate for student basic needs as members of Students Supporting Students, funded by the City of Raleigh and supported by HOST. They recently presented their recommendations to college and City leaders. ***More resources for food and housing security, and better access to those resources, please!!***



Students Supporting Students 2024-2025





Get Involved with HOST!

PARTICIPATE

Volunteer to become a host family by opening your home to a student who is experiencing homelessness, serve on our Board, or host a fundraising event!

COMMUNICATE

Pass the word about HOST to your relatives, neighbors, work associates, and friends who may be able to open their homes as volunteer hosts for students in our community.

DONATE

Make a donation to HOST or contribute items to our student Welcome Kits.

ADVOCATE

Share information about HOST with your company, place of worship, service club, or corporate foundation and ask them to consider a donation or grant to HOST.

You can make a tax-free contribution via our website

www.hostnc.org/donate

