

The HOST Post

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOST



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HOST Wishlist



Winter Break Is Coming!

Winter Break is a vulnerable time for many college students. Some local campuses close their on-campus housing, leaving some students out in the cold. Other campuses charge extra fees for students to stay in their on-campus housing.

Winter Break is also a time of increased food insecurity for students. On-campus dining or food resources might be closed or limited, and meal plans may be suspended during the break. Some students may be too low on funds to purchase groceries or meals.

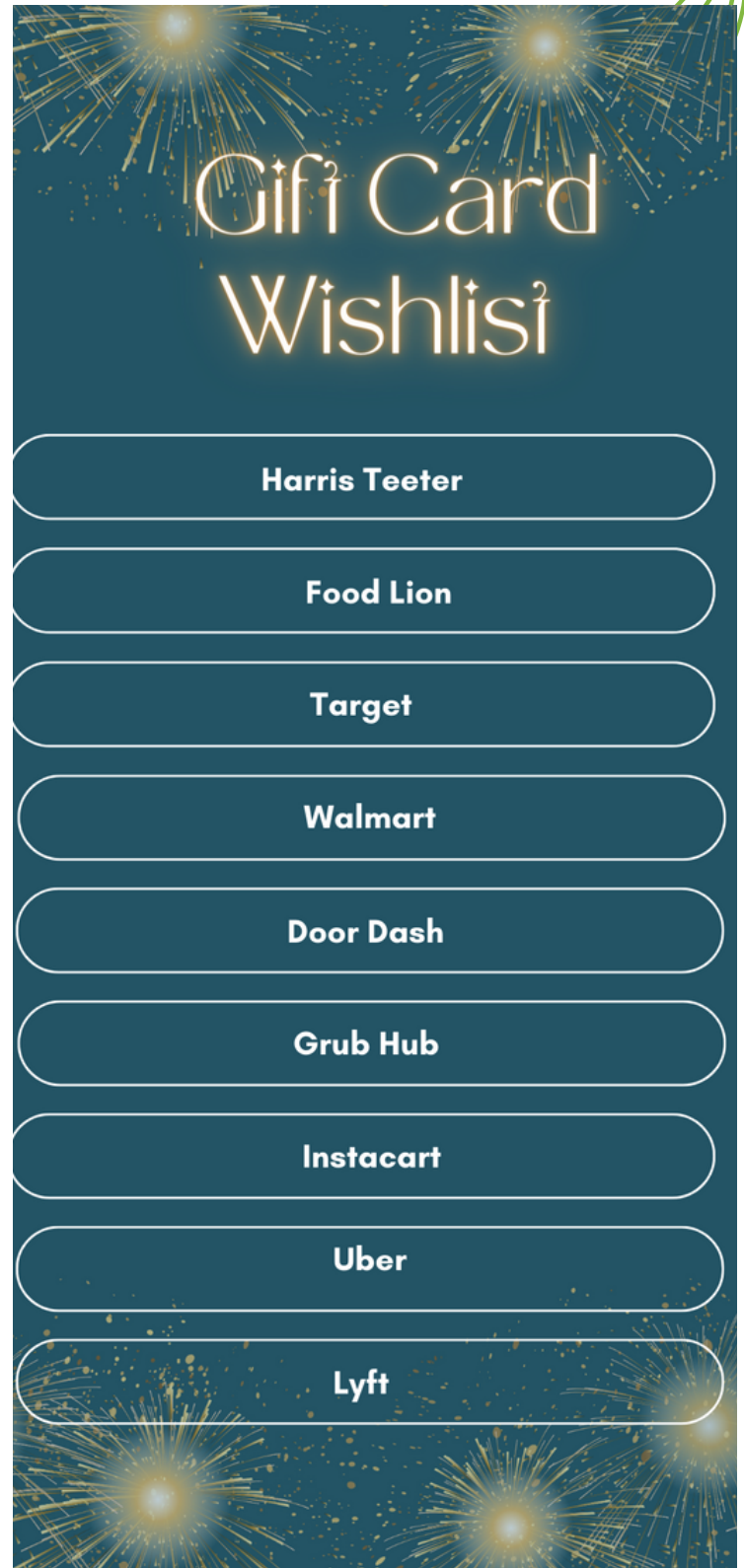
Here are ways you can support college students during winter break:

Host a Student: Offer housing for 4-6 weeks, beginning as early as November 21. Learn more on page 8.

Financial Contributions: Help by donating to HOST. \$80 covers one night in a hotel for a student, and \$270 pays on-campus housing fees for an NCSU student.

Gift Cards: Provide gift cards to stores, restaurants, and food/ride services to help students access food. Note that students use ride-hailing services for grocery store trips.

Your support can make a significant difference in ensuring that college students have a safe place to stay and enough to eat during the Winter Break.



HOST Happenings

Wake County Continuum of Care

HOST is now a member of the Wake County Continuum of Care

The vision of the Wake County Continuum of Care is to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time. We will achieve this vision through our shared values and actions.

By serving college students, HOST meets a gap in current services for individuals in our community experiencing homelessness. We are a critical component of the continuum of care in Wake County



New Board Members



We added four new members to our Board in July 2023 and they are already stepping up in big ways. We are currently seeking members to begin 2-year terms in July 2024. If you are passionate about our mission and want to join our dynamic board, contact Mary Haskett at boardchair@hostnc.org. We welcome all areas of expertise but are in particular need of individuals with backgrounds in finance, fundraising, communications, and human resources.



Meet Our Board Member

Shivani Surati Public Health

I Hello, my name is Shivani Surati. I am an NC State alumni, graduating with the class of 2020. I majored in Science, Technology, and Society with a concentration in Global Public Health. While an undergrad at NC State, I did undergraduate research on food and housing insecurity and as the co-founder of the Students Basic Needs Coalition. I then went on to do a master's in Global Health at Duke University. My experiences as an undergraduate researcher in food and housing insecurity, my graduate education in Global Health at Duke University, and my current role as a clinical research study coordinator at UNC have all inspired and reinforced my commitment to serving as a board member for Housing Opportunities for Students Today (HOST). The understanding I gained throughout my education and work inspires me to address housing insecurity among students through informed decision-making and sustainable solutions. Being a board member of HOST allows me to apply my knowledge, passion for social justice, and dedication to global health, creating a more equitable educational environment for all students. I joined HOST to serve and empower students.



Gratitude and News Highlights

Crazy Combs Salon

Crazy Combs Salon is supporting HOST by donating a portion of their sales to our program.

"Crazy Combs Salon is located just outside of Downtown Raleigh, in between historic Oakwood and Mordecai neighborhoods. We are comprised of 7 multi-talented, independent stylists including owner, Traci Farmer, a 30-year hair veteran of the Raleigh area."

Touch up on your highlights while also supporting HOST.



BRANDilly Creative Group

BRANDilly Creative Group selected HOST as the recipient of free marketing materials

Check them out and let them tell your story! "BRANDilly Creative Group partners with clients to understand their individual needs and elevate the value of their brands through thoughtfully designed experiences. Whether you're looking for a new website, a sexy brochure, or some off-the-wall promotional ideas, BCG can offer a fresh, innovative edge to your campaign.



Host Spotlight

Donna Bailey

I was first introduced to the HOST program when Libby presented to the Hillsborough-Wade CAC. It interested me since I live so close to NC State. I lost my husband a year ago and had some space that was just sitting empty, so I thought I would give it a try.

I am just completing my first HOST experience with a lovely young grad student from India. She has been very appreciative of having a safe space to stay until her apartment is ready.

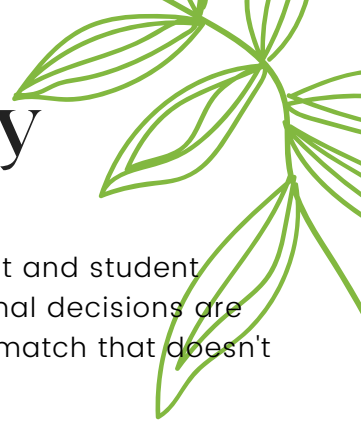
It was very easy to get vetted to become a host. And I did turn down the first offer I got since it didn't seem like a good fit for me at the time.

I have really enjoyed being here for this student's first American experience. I've enjoyed some good Indian food and helping her get settled in Raleigh. Having my guest has been like having a daughter!

I am retired and have enjoyed the company of my host student. I am planning on keeping in touch with her and being part of her American family.



A Message From Libby



HOST marked a significant milestone this fall, celebrating one year of service to college students. Since August 2022, we have connected eight students with host families who offered essential support. These partnerships varied from a few days to eight months, with most students staying for 4-6 months. HOST has also assisted 25 additional students with financial support for emergency housing and rental assistance to maintain or obtain permanent housing.

Our commitment to making a difference extends beyond the students themselves. Eight host households have completed the comprehensive HOST onboarding process, including interviews, home visits, and specialized host training.

The work continues! We are recruiting FIVE new host households for our upcoming New Host Training on Saturday, November 18th. If you have a spare bedroom in your home, now is the perfect moment to become a part of something transformative. Consider opening your home to a college student facing housing insecurity, offering them safety and stability to focus on their academic dreams.

Here is what hosting involves:

Private Space: Hosts provide a private bedroom, access to a shared or private bathroom, and use of a kitchen.

Location Flexibility: Hosts can live anywhere within Wake County and can rent or own their homes.

No Extra Burden: You don't have to provide meals or transportation for the student.

Set Your Terms: You decide when you can host and for how long.

Match Control: Potential host and student matches meet before any final decisions are made; you can decline any match that doesn't feel right.

Shared Expectations: The host and student create a Living Agreement together - a shared set of expectations and boundaries for living together.

Every hosting relationship offers variability and flexibility. Each host is different, each student is different, and each host-student relationship is different. Yet, it's these differences that make the host home model so magical. It's all about people connecting and building relationships to provide students with a safe and stable place to pursue their dreams.

Get Involved Today!

If you're ready to open your heart and home, contact us today at 984-286-4151 or via email at libbystephens@hostnc.org to sign up as a host household. Together, we can support college students facing housing insecurity so that they can thrive.



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 Advisory Council, 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