

The HOST Post

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOST

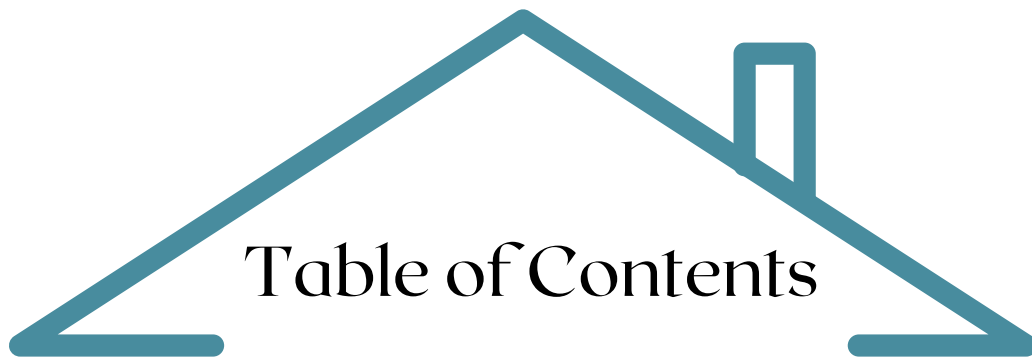


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Information Sessions



Upcoming Dates

April 4 6:00-7:00 PM

- Virtual; a link will be sent after registration

April 11 11:30-12:30

- Virtual; a link will be sent after registration

May 9 6:00-7:00pm

- At the HOST office;
- 1801 Hillsborough St. Raleigh, NC



HOST Wishlist



HOST is proud to offer Welcome Baskets for students when they move into a HOST home. To help make this dream a reality, please consider donating one of the items listed.



- Sheets (all sizes)
- Towel Sets
- Hygiene items (shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, etc.)
- First Aid items
- Snacks
- Small decorative items (artificial plants, frames)
- Uber and Lyft gift cards
- Grocery store gift cards
- Gas cards

HOST Happenings

City of Raleigh funding

The City of Raleigh is participating in a National League of Cities initiative to address college student basic needs insecurity. The City is joined by colleges in Raleigh to: 1) form a student advisory board to inform the work of the initiative, 2) develop an online portal for students in Raleigh colleges to access basic needs resources, and 3) support HOST!

Support for HOST includes 3 years of funding for operations and a team of initiative members who will identify approaches to increase visibility of HOST in the community.



We are grateful for the support of
Cathey J. Ector-Cox
Youth Services and Raleigh
Pathways Center Manager

Housing & Neighborhoods Department
City of Raleigh

HOST space transformation by *A Lotta Love!*

Drop In

for the grand reveal
March 26, 12:30–2:00pm

Location:

1801 Hillsborough St.
(at the rear of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church)

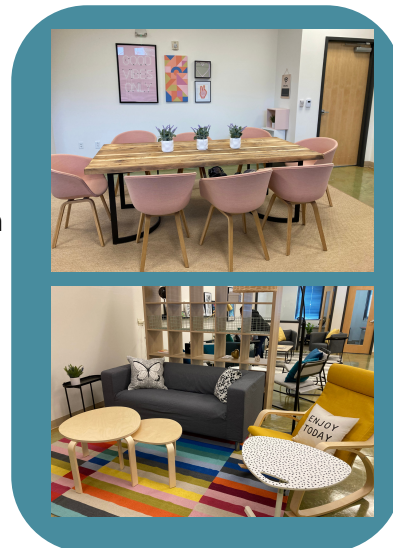


Heloise Bickmore's dream board



From dream
board to
dreamy
space.

Here's a
sneak peek.



[HTTPS://WWW.ALOTTALOVE.ORG/](https://www.alottalove.org/)

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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Meet Our Board Member

Fola Olatunde

Why were you inspired to become a Board Member for HOST?

About 2 years ago, my colleague sent me a HOST flyer, and they were recruiting advisory committee members. As someone who experienced transitional home insecurity, I knew that I could not afford to look away. My decision to support the initiative was affirmed when I learned that as many as 15% of North Carolina State University students experienced home and food insecurity during the pandemic. I started to read and learned that this was not just a local issue, but one that many students face across countries of the world. Home insecurity has dire consequences on academic productivity and the mental health of students. In April of 2021, I joined my first meeting with one of the pioneer members of the initiative, and I have since continued to support HOST.

How can others become involved in the HOST home program?

There are lots of ways to be involved in the HOST program. Start by sharing our communication materials on social media platforms. Follow us on our social media pages and repost our content. Attend any of our information sessions to learn more about the operations of HOST. As a non-profit we are always in need of volunteers. We are in dire need of graphic designers to help support the communication team. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, reach out to Program Coordinator, Libby Stephens.



What do you do when you aren't supporting HOST?

That's an an interesting question! I will share a few things. I'm currently a doctoral candidate working on my dissertation. My research is at the intersection of mental health information, mental health literacy and young people. I teach communication courses at NC State University. I also help small businesses and non-profit organizations with design strategies, user research and devolping communication materials. When I am not doing all these serious things, you may also catch me in Talley building or strolling on campus with a bowl of Howling cow's butter almond ice cream.

A Message From Libby



When I am not working for HOST, one of my hobbies is gardening. I grew up helping my parents plant seeds, bulbs, and flowers and weed the flower beds around our home. Several years ago, my parents moved to a house with a smaller yard. Before they moved, they invited me to gather some plants from those flower beds that I had helped to tend. Now, I often stroll around my yard in the mornings each spring, looking for the first signs of those transplanted flowers breaking through the soil. This week, I noticed the first shoots of the peonies; I am still waiting for the first signs of the Lily of the Valley. As I celebrate my first anniversary on staff, I have been reflecting on the progress of HOST. I am so grateful for the seeds planted and nurtured by the early planning team, the advisory council, donors, and supporters. It is exciting and energizing to see the work of those early volunteers blossoming into a program providing support to college students and helping them thrive.

Here are some of the ways HOST has “bloomed” this winter.

- In December, the first student enrolled in HOST in August 2022 moved from their host home placement into on-campus housing.
- We paid the extra housing fee for five NCSU students to stay in their on-campus housing during the winter break.
- In March, we successfully matched our third student with a host (our first student from Shaw University).
- We held our second new host training and now have seven host homes hosting or ready to host students.



As we approach the end of the Spring semester, HOST is preparing for an increase in referrals for students who need housing during the summer. We expect to need households that can either host a student for a short-term stay (a few days to one month) or a long-term stay (one to six months). We aim to have ten host homes ready to host students by this June. Please sign up for one of the monthly information sessions at www.hostnc.org/calendar or reach out to me at libbystephens@hostnc.org to learn more about how you can help HOST grow and help students 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