



**Covenant  
House**  
New York



# Anti-Human Trafficking

## WHY COVENANT HOUSE NEW YORK

At Covenant House New York, our commitment to youth facing homelessness goes way beyond their first moment of crisis. In order to truly help a young person change their life, we know that opening a door is just the initial step in a long journey. We must provide transformational programs that give our youth the tools and support they need to build a future of their own.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

Human trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar international criminal industry to buy and sell human beings, and children and youth experiencing homelessness are a prime target. Today, we are doing more than ever to protect and safeguard young people victimized by human trafficking and we are helping these young survivors transform their lives — not just for the time they are with us, but for a lifetime.

We meet trafficking survivors' immediate needs for food, clothing, shelter, safety, and medical care and we recognize their unique needs for extra levels of protection, including safe spaces and rigorous mental health care to help them sort through their experiences and reclaim their potential. Based on our unique understanding of this issue, we offer our young people a complete array of tailored direct care services that give them the best chance to heal and succeed.

## IMPACT

We are in the process of reenvisioning the way we offer mental health services to our residents with lived experience of human trafficking and we are expanding our mental health aftercare services for survivors as they transition into more independent living. In the year ahead, we will add two bilingual social workers to our Anti-Human Trafficking team and the team will participate in trainings that explore the overlap between sex and labor trafficking, and the resulting trauma this creates.

## SERVICES



## LEARN MORE

[covenanthouse.org/chny-investment](https://covenanthouse.org/chny-investment)



## MEET POLINA

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Polina is a human trafficking survivor who not only participated in our program, but also worked as a Covenant House New York Youth Advocate.

“When I first got to Covenant House, I felt like I couldn’t trust anyone. I had just run from a hostile, dangerous situation, where I was surrounded by bad influences. I did not have control of my own life and that is a terrible feeling.

Some time has passed since I was in the predicament. And, life is starting to look like normal. I have grown and gained some experience over the past years. I have gained respect in society by simply saying ‘I care.’ I think we need to advocate for people who have no voice or power to protect themselves, and it's very hard doing it on your own.

When I came to Covenant House, they provided me with immediate services and helped me to understand how to navigate my life. Before I was living in stress and fear. There have been periods in my life when I felt apathy and disempowerment, but I’ve always known what I want from life and what I should do in order to succeed and now I am working towards those goals every day.”

## ABOUT COVENANT HOUSE NEW YORK

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Covenant House New York is proud to be New York City’s largest provider serving youth experiencing homelessness. So much more than a shelter, we provide affirming and transformative services so each young person can create their own path to independence. Our doors are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

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Covenant House conducted a multi-city study in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania and Loyola University New Orleans. The result led to one of the largest-ever data sets on human trafficking and exploitation experiences of young people facing homelessness.

The study revealed that nearly 20% of the 900+ youth surveyed across 13 cities had experienced trafficking; for young women, the prevalence was a stunning 25%. And, 68% of youth who had either been trafficked or engaged in survival sex had done so while homeless.



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