

Meet Ace.



Ace had a plan to come to Fort Worth and live with someone he had been chatting with online for months. After traveling 8 hours on a Greyhound bus from out of state, Ace arrived at the individual's home, immediately felt unsafe, and left. With no family, friends, or any knowledge of Fort Worth, he took all the belongings he had and entered the local library. The library just happened to be a designated Safe Place site.

The library staff contacted the Safe Place team at ACH, where he was able to get an assessment before entering our Youth Emergency Shelter. After contacting his guardian, the Safe Place and shelter staff were able to safely return Ace home with his guardian. Without Safe Place, Ace could have easily turned into a human trafficking statistic.

Ace has been safely reunified with his family thanks to Safe Place and the Youth Emergency Shelter.



The Pat O' Neal Youth Emergency Shelter

“An invaluable partner in the fight against human trafficking, ACH faithfully provides a place where the victim’s safety, well-being, and immediate needs can be met and further assists in the transition to safe and stable housing.”

- The United States
Department of
Homeland Security

The Youth Emergency Shelter serves runaway and homeless youth as well as trafficking survivors, ages 10-17. The shelter is the only such shelter in Tarrant County offering 24/7 safe shelter to youth while ACH works to reunite them with their families or find safe alternative living arrangements.

Youth feeling unsafe or threatened can get help from ACH at any of more than 250 Safe Place locations throughout Tarrant County. Our shelter is also a Safe Place—a national program administered locally by ACH that provides access to immediate help and safety for young people in trouble.