About Open Sky

At Open Sky, we believe that individuals with mental health needs, developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, Autism, homelessness and other complex challenges deserve to live fulfilling lives.

Our role is to help the people we serve to see beyond and live beyond their perceived challenges. We support individuals and families to achieve their own definition of wellness, develop meaningful relationships, have access to opportunities of their choosing, such as education, employment or participation in community activities, and be active members of their communities.

We are committed to race equity and are on a journey to learn, grow, teach and transform.

We embrace, promote and teach evidence-based practices and are leaders in community inclusion. We are pleased to collaborate and partner with other community organizations because we know that working together is our best hope for achieving the best possible outcomes for those we serve.

Headquartered in Worcester, Open Sky employs 1,300 staff and offers over 140 programs located throughout Central Massachusetts.

Our Mission

Blending best practices with the power of community, we partner with individuals and families to see beyond and live beyond perceived limitations to pursue fulfilling lives.

For more information, please contact

safehomes@openskycs.org

www.safehomesma.org

Safe Homes is funded in part by
The United Way of Central Massachusetts

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Supporting LGBTQIA+ Youth and their Allies in Central Massachusetts

SAFE HOMES

Open Sky COMMUNITY SERVICES

About Safe Homes

Safe Homes, a program of Open Sky Community Services, was founded in 1995 to empower LGBTQIA+ youth and their allies between the ages of 14 and 23 to live their lives to the fullest. We provide safe spaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex and asexual youth to make new connections, ask questions and get helpful resources to support their well-being and personal development. The program features in-person and virtual drop-ins. Safe Homes is led by professional staff with a focus on creating opportunities for youth. Our team consists of a Director, Coordinator, Clinician, and Drop-In Counselors. We believe in putting LGBTQIA+ voices front and center in leadership and include many opportunities for professional development and group facilitation. Our services are for people of all races, ethnicities and cultures. We commit ourselves to being allies for restorative justice and racial equity. Standing together we bring strength, justice and hope for all.

Core Values

Safe Homes strives to offer support to diverse communities throughout Central Massachusetts. To maintain our values, we follow five Core Values; community, education, engagement, excitement, and activism. These five themes help us in supporting our mission to provide a safe and supportive space for LGBTQIA+ youth and develop a community that is both nurtured and empowered.

Services Provided

- Drop-in center for ages 14-23
- Educational activities
- Speakers and trainings
- Youth leadership opportunities
- Peer support
- Food pantry
- Transgender Resource Center
- Free, confidential one-on-one counseling
- Support for homeless youth
- Harm reduction and emergency supplies
- Hygiene supplies
- Shower and laundry facilities
- Clothing
- Support and education for parents and caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth

Outreach Initiatives

- Partnering with youth and families
- Networking with other youth serving agencies
- Participating in health fairs and youth leadership events
- Visiting local area Gay Straight Alliances (GSAs)

Trainings

Free community-based trainings on:

- Implicit Bias
- LGBTQIA+ Identity
- LGBTQIA+ Self-Care
- Race Equity 101
- LGBTQ+ Allyship
- Serving LGBTQ+ Youth

Our trainings include presentations for:

- Educators
- Students
- Social workers
- Foster parents
- Therapists
- Residential youth workers
- Legal professionals
- Youth healthcare providers

Safe Homes Virtual

Ages 14-23
Mondays 6:00pm-8:00pm
Email safehomes@openskycs.org to join our Discord channel

Safe Homes North

923 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA
Ages 14-23
First Tuesday of the month
5:30pm-7:30pm

Worcester

4 Mann Street, Worcester, MA
Ages 14-17
Wednesdays 3:00pm-6:00pm
Ages 18-23
Tuesdays 4:00pm-7:00pm
Thursdays 5:30pm-8:30pm