# The Project Oz Mission

Project Oz partners with young people to build a foundation that promotes safety, opportunities, and well-being. Supporting youth and families is key to building a strong community where all members are able to reach their full potential.

#### We impact over 6,000

### youth per year!

# Our goal is to keep youth safe - now, and in the future - by offering:

- 24-Hour Crisis Response for Runaway and Homeless Youth
- Emergency Shelter and Supportive Housing
- Mobile Outreach and Safe Place
- Suicide Prevention Education and Mental Health Awareness
- Substance Use Prevention
- School-Based Counselors
- Career/Education Exploration



My day doesn't end when the last school bell rings because I know young people thrive when organizations support young people beyond the school day in their community.

- Project Oz Counselor





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**Building a Foundation for Growth,** 

**Creating Opportunities for Youth!** 

# **Our Reach**



We respond to 250-300 youth each year through our 24-hour crisis intervention.



We provide emergency housing for over 150 youth per year.



We provide 1,000 students per year and school personnel a safe, caring environment through our on-site counselor support services.



We provide over 5,600 students with substance use prevention education and mental health awareness programs.

After meeting with Project Oz, I could see where I was going and the progress I was making. This is truly a safe place for me.

Project Oz has helped me evolve into the young adult I was always meant to be.

# **Our Need**

Project Oz needs 2,500 feet of flexible space for youth, families, counselors, training, job readiness, and technology stations to accommodate the growing needs of our community and the number of youth and families served.

Our expansion will provide homeless youth the dignity to clean up and do laundry in a private, safe space, while offering a bite to eat at our newly established Nutrition Nook and a comfortable place to talk with a caring adult.



# Why West Bloomington?

Compared to McLean County averages, youth in West Bloomington are disproportionately likely to experience poverty, hunger, and other barriers to their healthy development.

We have roots and are trusted neighbors in the community since 1973.

# The Impact

#### **Our Youth**



Better access to mental health services, as well as wrap around support services such as a computer lab, Wi-Fi, job searching, life skills, youth development opportunities, and technology.

#### **Our Families**



Purposeful design to promote healing and communication for families during challenging times in an accessible and comfortable location that they know and trust.

# **Our Neighborhood**



Encourage investment in West Bloomington with accessible walk-in services while increasing our ability to collaborate with community partners and offer community events such as vaccine clinics, trainings, resource fairs, and activities.

### **Our Community**



Access to necessary services improves graduation rates, job opportunities, positive health outcomes, and connects people together in support and purpose, while reducing the likelihood of substance use, homelessness, and poverty.