

2024 Wheeling SleepOut



Wheeling SleepOut Information

Thanks for supporting the 2024 Wheeling SleepOut, the signature fundraising event for the Youth Services System, Inc. (YSS) Transitional Living Program. This packet includes lots of information to help you prepare for this year's event.



Register Online

Step One: To participate in the Wheeling SleepOut, [register online](#) or scan the **QR Code** below. The registration fee is \$25, which includes entrance into the event, dinner, snacks throughout the night, entertainment, and a really cool shirt!



Register online at www.wheelingsleepout.org
Note: All participants must register individually.

Start a Fundraising Campaign

Step Two: Start your fundraising campaign! Raising money for the Wheeling SleepOut is easy and makes a **huge impact**. Funds raised support the **YSS Transitional Living Program**, which serves youth ages 17-21 in our community by securing housing, employment, education, and so much more. We've provided **fundraising tips and tools** for you to use in your efforts.

How to Fundraise

1. After you register for the event, you will see the link to share to your personal page on social media.
2. You can share posts and request for support.
3. Use the tools provided in this packet and available by clicking the FAQ's tab of the Wheeling SleepOut website.

Recruit Your Team

There is no limit on the size of teams participating in the Wheeling SleepOut.

Connect With Us!

Like & Follow Us on Facebook: Wheeling SleepOut
Post Your Box Building Pictures & Videos And Tag Us
Using #WheelingSleepOut2024
Visit our website at www.WheelingSleepOut.org for more information.

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Why Fundraising Matters

Funds raised during the Wheeling SleepOut support the youth in our community in the YSS Transitional Living Program. The program helps youth who want to stay on the right path and make good choices. Check out our tips, tools, and incentives for reaching your fundraising goals!

Fundraising Tips

Start Talking - Use multiple ways (in person, e-mail, social media) to share your message and how to donate. Tell people where the money will go (Youth Services System, Inc. Transitional Living Program) and how it will help the youth in our community.

Get Creative- Think of fun ways to collect money! Start a competition with your team members (Top Individual Fundraiser earns a BIG prize), hold a bake sale, run a donation drive, offer to rake your neighbor's yard for a donation, or find a sponsor. The stars are the limit!

Make It Personal - Talk about why the Wheeling SleepOut is important to you. If you have a story about volunteering at YSS or participating in the Wheeling SleepOut, be sure to tell it!

How to Ask

Asking people for money can be scary, but keep in mind the #1 reason people don't give is because they weren't asked! Don't be afraid to just ask, share your fundraising goal, and how the donation will help. Ask in person, e-mail, on the phone, or on social media -- and don't forget to follow up!

Ask: *"Hello! My name is _____, and I am participating in the 2024 Wheeling SleepOut on November 1 at the Market Street Plaza. I have a goal of raising \$_____ for Youth Services System's work with youth ages 17-21 in the Ohio Valley, to help them become self-sufficient. I care about this because _____. Would you donate to help me reach my goal?"*

If they say yes: That's great! Be sure to thank the donor and tell them how they can give and how this will impact the youth in the Transitional Living Program.

"Thanks for your donation! This will really make an impact on the lives of youth in the Ohio Valley. You can give cash, check (made out to YSS), or donate to me online (give them your donation name or team name) - whatever is most convenient to you!" (Paypal, Venmo, Cash App, etc. can be used)

If they say no: It's ok -- don't take it personally! There could be many reasons why someone says no, but it's not you!

"Thank you for taking the time to talk with me today! If you would like to help in a different way, you can visit www.YouthServicesSystem.org to learn more about YSS and ways to get involved!"

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Fundraising Tools


We know fundraising isn't easy, so we've provided some fundraising tools that you can access to make it a little easier. If there is something you would like to see or have any questions, contact [Tammy Kruse](mailto:tkruse@ysswv.com) at tkruse@ysswv.com or (304) 280-7600.

Website - We have fundraising tips, resources, and printable tools on our website. Visit the FAQ sections of www.wheelingsleepout.org for some guidance and inspiration on fundraising.

Social Media- Create a Fundraiser through Facebook or Instagram. Scan the QR Codes for step-by-step instructions. Check out the Wheeling SleepOut page on Facebook for other fundraising tips and ideas.

Donation Tracker- At the end of the packet, you'll find your Donation Tracker. This will help you keep track of any offline donations you receive (cash or checks). Print the Tracker, attach it to a manila envelope or large Ziploc bag, and throw a pen in there.. Collect the information from donors as you receive money - it's important to stay organized!

Participant Donation Slips- While fundraising, use the Participant Donation Slips, which gives instructions on how to donate to your page online or through mail. Print the PDF (found on the FAQ page of our website), cut out the slips, write your name at the top, and hand them out. They are great for handing out to groups, in your neighborhood, family, friends, and more!

 This year, we have a **Dine to Donate** event at [Texas Roadhouse](#) at The Highlands on **October 16, 2024**. There is a flyer attached to this packet with more information. Please join us for a night of good food and support a great cause! When you show a physical or digital copy of the flyer, **10% of sales** will be donated back to YSS!

Facebook



Instagram



HOW TO SUBMIT MONEY

- Be sure to count your money ahead of time, so you know how much you are submitting.
- Bring your cash/checks to check-in (keep track of donations using the Donation Tracker attached at the end of packet).
- Checks should be made out to "Youth Services System" and the memo line the donor should write "participant name."

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Getting Involved Before Event

There are several ways to get involved with the Wheeling SleepOut before the event! Below are some suggestions for how to stay involved, build excitement around the event, and get others involved!

Share Videos & Photos- While your team is collecting supplies or building the box, make sure to take photos and videos and share them on social media by tagging us on Facebook (**Wheeling SleepOut**) and using the hashtag **#WheelingSleepOut2024!**



If you share a photo or video on Facebook, tag us and use the hashtag, you will be automatically entered into a giveaway for a \$50 gift card! Check our social media for updates on the giveaway!

Dress Down Days- If you are a school or business and want to hold a “Dress Down Day,” charge \$1 per participant and collect the money. Turn in the money raised to YSS. (This also works for other themes like “Wear a Hat Day”)!



If you are participating, the money raised from these Dress Down Days can be submitted to your team/individual fundraiser. ***Note:** When you turn the money in, specify on the envelope which individual/team name the funds go to.*

Bake Sale/Luncheon- Bake some goodies or host a luncheon for your workplace. You can raise funds for the event this way, and you get the chance to raise awareness on youth homelessness.

Like/Follow us on Facebook and tag us in your posts!



Things to Do During the SleepOut



Boxed-In Design Contest

Get creative with your team and enter the Boxed-In Design Contest. Plan the design for your team's box, using only the allowed materials (found below). This year's theme is [Music: Light the Market](#)

Awards will be given for [Top Design](#), [Top Educational](#), and [Best in Show](#).

- All entries must be completed by 8pm the night of the event.
- Judging will begin at 8pm and winners will be announced at 9:30pm.
- Structures must be under 15 feet tall.

What materials are OK to use?

- Cardboard, Paper, Props, Tape, String or Rope, Crayons, Water-Based Markers, Battery Powered Lighting (Lights are required).

What materials are NOT ok to use?

- Paint, Wood, Permanent Markers, Large Staples, Glue, Styrofoam, Electric Lights.
- Box designs using prohibited materials will not be allowed at the event.



Tip: Masking tape works best and costs the cheapest!

Entertainment

Music provided by: DJ Jermaine Lucious and the Zak Zatazelo Band

Door prizes will be given out throughout the night along with prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place box winners!

Other nonprofits and local businesses in the Ohio Valley will be set up with resources and information. After you build your box, head over to the information tables to learn more.



Day-Of Information (Please Read)!



Registration

- Don't forget to register for the event online PRIOR. Day-of registration will be available, but the lines could be long.
- Please remember that each member of your team must register.
- Registration fee is \$25 per person and automatically earns you food, snacks, entertainment, a t-shirt, and more!

Check-In 4-7pm

- **Check-in materials needed:** Money fundraised and completed Donation Tracker (separate by team member).
- We will have volunteers to help you unload your items.

What to Bring

- Check-in material (see above).
- We suggest dressing in layers!
- Don't forget a hat, gloves, and warm socks.



What NOT to Bring

- Any of the prohibited Boxed-In Contest materials (wood, staples, glue, styrofoam, insulation, paint, permanent markers, electrical lighting).
- Valuable items (YSS is not responsible for any lost or stolen items at the event).
- This is a tobacco/vape and alcohol-free event.

During the SleepOut

- Food, snacks, and drinks are provided.
- Share photos and videos during the event using #WheelingSleepOut and tagging us on Facebook!
- Live music and DJ all night.
- Table event for sharing resources from other nonprofits and local businesses to the Ohio Valley.

After the SleepOut

When leaving please do the following:

- Tear down boxes and take cardboard to the dumpster on site of the event.
- Throw away all your trash.

Any Questions? Contact Us at (304) 233-9627 or tkruse@ysswv.com


#WheelingSleepOut2024 // www.WheelingSleepOut.org





**Youth Services System, Inc. presents the 2024 Wheeling SleepOut
Boxed-In Design Contest**

Criteria: Theme regarding homelessness, creativity, warmth, comfort, and livability.

Awards will be presented to:

 **Best in Show** -- this award will go to the one Boxed-In Design that best represents the following criteria: theme, creativity, warmth, comfort, and livability.

 **Best Overall Design** -- this award will go to the Boxed-In Designs (1st, 2nd, 3rd place awards) that best represent the following criteria: theme, creativity, warmth, comfort, and livability.

 **Best Theme** -- this award will go to the Boxed-In Designs (1st, 2nd, 3rd place awards) that best promote homelessness awareness: the issues, available resources, a call to action, etc.

Contestant # _____ **Team or Individual Name** _____

Judges Names _____

On a scale of 1-10, rate the Boxed-In Design on the following categories (1 being the lowest; 10 being the highest)

Overall Creativity:

(lowest) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (highest)

Creative use of materials:

(lowest) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (highest)

Overall Education/Theme:

(lowest) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (highest)

Comfort/Livability/Warmth:

(lowest) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (highest)

Total Score: _____

Judges Comments: _____

DONATION TRACKER

Please turn this in when you check in at the event.

NAME	AMOUNT	CASH OR CHECK	EMAIL



DINE TO DONATE

»» *Support* ««

**YOUTH SERVICES SYSTEM
"WHEELING SLEEPOUT"
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16
4PM-8PM**

**10%
DONATION NIGHT**

for **Youth Services System "Wheeling SleepOut"**.

Present this flyer at the Wheeling location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to **Youth Services System "Wheeling SleepOut"**!

**304-547-1578
43 FORT HENRY ROAD
TRIADELPHIA, WV**

