

# *The Ithaca Voice*

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The Ithaca Voice



## **CFCU sponsors 3 years of 'Open Doors' to help homeless Ithaca youth**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS / MARCH 3, 2016 / BY [MICHAEL SMITH](#)

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ITHACA, NY - Family & Children's Service is pleased to announce that CFCU Community Credit Union has generously made a three-year commitment to sponsor *Open Doors*, a program that serves runaway and homeless youth in the Ithaca community.

A program of Family & Children's Service, *Open Doors* provides in-person and telephone consultations, short-term case management, and counseling to youth up to the age of 21 that have run away or are at risk of running away from home.

The program also provides temporary shelter placement in volunteer host homes in the community. Host homes provide a safe place to stay for teens and youth who are at risk of running away or who are currently without shelter. There is currently no other shelter opportunity for teens in Tompkins County.

The community is invited to learn more about becoming *Open Doors* and Host Homes at a **free *Informational Session* on Thursday, March 17 at 211 East Seneca Street**. The event starts at noon, and lunch will be provided.

Through CFCU's multi-year commitment to support Open Doors, Family & Children's Service can ensure that the needs of vulnerable youth in need of safety and support get the care they need. "CFCU has been a long-time supporter of Family and Children's Service and we're honored to sponsor Open Doors. This is a program that addresses the significant need to help youth in our community," commented CFCU President & CEO, Lisa Whitaker.

Launched in 2015, Open Doors responds to the critical need to provide support services to runaway and homeless youth. These services aim to increase their safety, improve their overall well-being and mental health, encourage self-sufficiency, and help them build permanent connections with caring adults.

"We have benefited greatly from the long-standing support of CFCU," said David Shapiro, President & CEO of Family & Children's Service. "CFCU's strong

commitment to our community allows us to work towards reunifying the youth and teens with their families.”

**Family & Children’s Service** supports, promotes and strengthens the well-being of individuals and families by providing high-quality, accessible mental health care and related social services, with a particular sensitivity towards the needs of children.

## Tears, excitement and hope for Ithaca's homeless



Part V of “Spotlight: The crisis of Ithaca’s homeless,” the Ithaca Voice’s five-part series on homelessness for “Spotlight on Ithaca.”



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Michael Smith

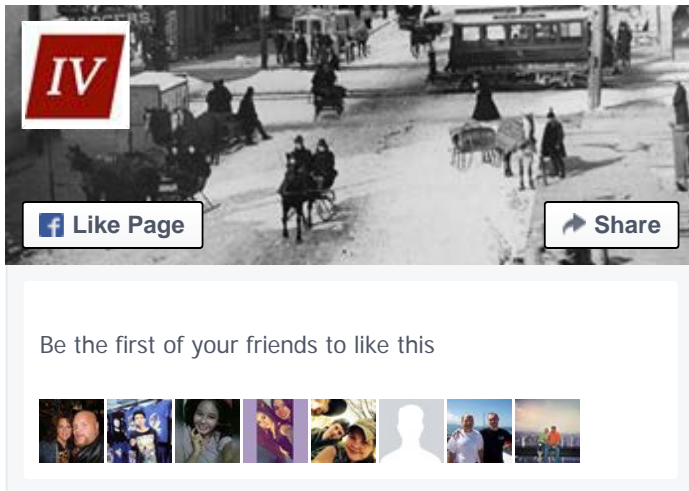


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The Ithaca Voice is an online-only news and information site serving the Ithaca area and Tompkins County. Launched June 2014, it is a free and independent source of journalism that is updated daily.

