

RADAR

**Re-engaging Academically Disconnected
Adolescents Respectfully**

What is RADAR?

RADAR addresses the needs of homeless disengaged youth aged 13-15 who are currently not attending school. With the contributions of multiple youth serving agencies, RADAR's mission is to **reconnect these youth to the essential supports of school, family and community.**



Identifying the Need for RADAR:

RADAR came together in Spring 2008 as the agencies serving Calgary's most vulnerable youth identified some alarming trends:

Youth Shelter Data (EXIT and Avenue 15):

- 230 intakes of youth under 16 years old to EXIT and Ave 15, Sept 07-May 08

Calgary Board of Education:

- 220 junior high students referred to CBE Student Response Team, 07/08

City of Calgary, Youth Justice:

- CRILF study data – 2006 aggregate + 123 youth offender profiles
- Over 50% of reported youth crime occurred during school hours and immediately after school

What we know about RADAR youth based on the data...



RADAR Youth Profile

- Homeless
- 13 – 15 years old
- Family Conflict
- Mental Health Issues
- Substance Abuse & Addictions
- At Risk of Sexual Exploitation
- Exposure to Crime & Gang Involvement
- Academic Challenges
- Not Attending School
- Lack of Supportive Adults in Life
- Influence of Negative Peer Groups

What the youth say:

- ***“After my third suspension, I just stopped going back to school.”***
~ John (14 years old)
- ***“Everyone else in school has food in the fridge. I feel like a freak.....I never know where my next meal is coming from.”***
~ Emily (15 years old)
- ***“When I think of going into a school I feel sick. I try to do it – but I just can’t.”***
~ Sam (13 years old)
- ***“All the other girls talk about their boyfriends and parties and normal stuff. I don’t know what to talk about cause my life is so messed up. I’m just not normal and I don’t fit in at school.”***
~ Jennifer (14 years old)
- ***“When I’m in a shelter it’s just too complicated to go to school. I don’t feel like explaining my situation to people over and over.”***
~Jill (14 years old)

RADAR:

a unique collaborative response



The risks for these youth and the potential negative impact on Calgarians motivated multiple stakeholders to unite vision and resources to reclaim these youth and connect them back to healthy positive futures.

This community response quickly gained momentum and in September 2008, RADAR was launched.

Who are the RADAR Partners?

- Wood's Homes
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary
- Calgary Board of Education
- Calgary Catholic School District
- Calgary and Area, Child and Family Services
- City of Calgary, Community and Neighbourhood Services: Youth Probation
- Alberta Health Services, Calgary Health Region: Child & Adolescent Mental Health



Where is RADAR?

“THE HANGAR”

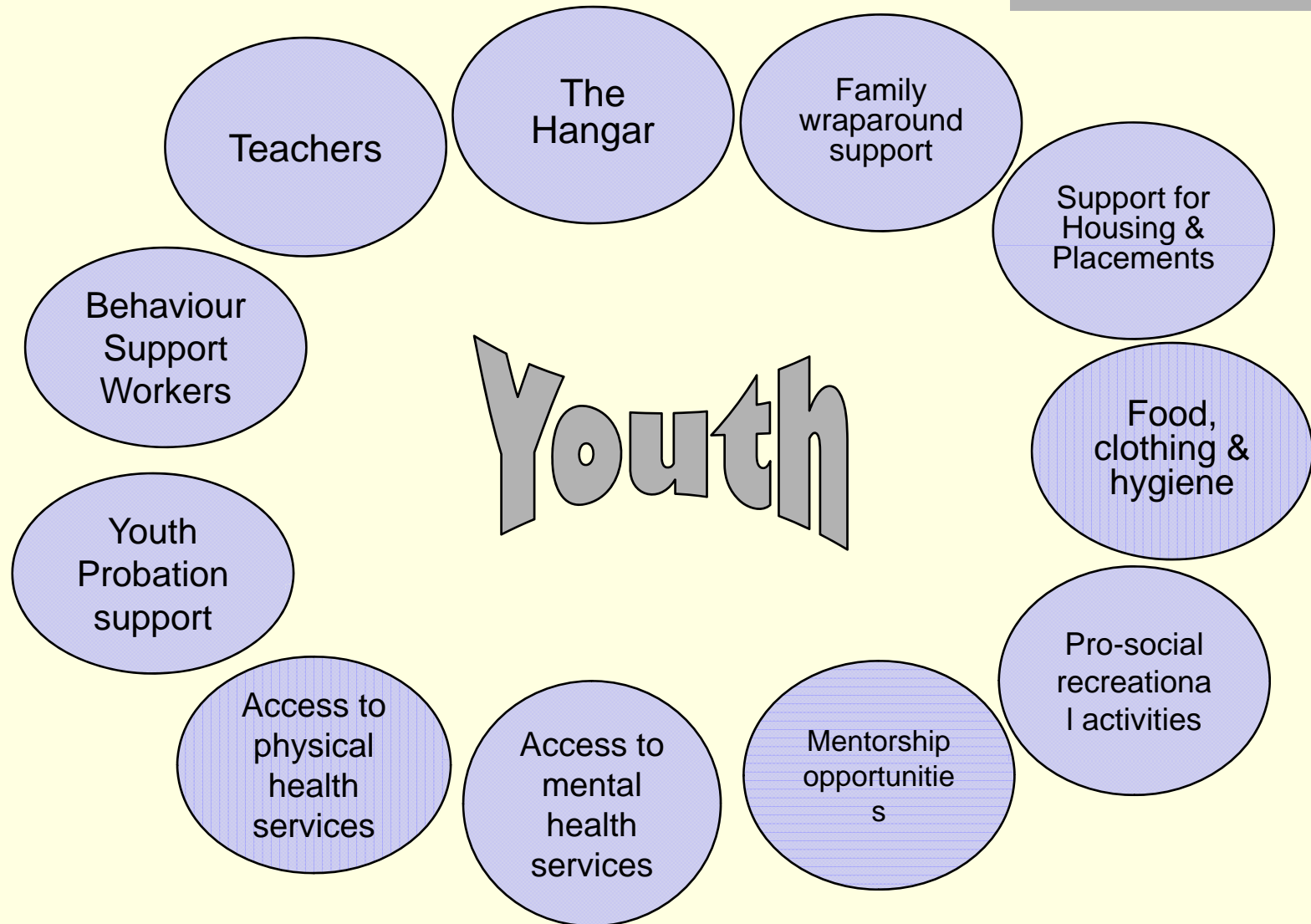
Renfrew Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary

The HANGAR is a unique community based learning environment that provides:

- Gymnasium
- Computer Lab/Classroom
- Climbing Walls
- Art Room
- Sound-proof Music Room
- Performance-sized Theatre Stage



What RADAR provides:



RADAR Guiding Principles

- **Bridging** youth back to School, Family & Community
- **Wraparound** support for youth and their families for successful transitioning back to mainstream settings
- **Portability** of supports and resources to support youth within mainstream settings
- **Youth Engagement** with support for youth voice and self-advocacy
- **Ongoing Learning** to ensure project remains an innovative initiative based on collaborative effort

RADAR Funders

- Government of Alberta
- Burns Memorial Fund
- City of Calgary, Crime Prevention Investment Plan
- EducationMatters
- United Way of Calgary and Area

