Y2Y New Haven is a joint initiative of students from Dwight Hall at Yale, Youth Continuum, and Y2Y Network to open a student-run homeless shelter for young adults (ages 18-24) in Greater New Haven. Y2Y New Haven is based on the youth-to-youth model employed by Y2Y Harvard Square, which opened in Cambridge, MA in 2015. Y2Y’s model focuses on getting young people off the streets and into a safe environment with...
accessible legal aid, case management services, and medical care. This model helps young adults build sustainable pathways out of homelessness and empowers them to advocate for change. In 2018, the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness identified 816 young adults ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness in Greater New Haven. Currently, only six youth-specific shelter beds exist in the area. Y2Y New Haven seeks to address this critical need for safe, trauma-informed youth shelter and effectively intervene in the cycle of chronic homelessness.

• **Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting**

The Fellow will support all aspects of Y2Y New Haven’s effort to open and operate a student-run homeless shelter for young adults (ages 18-24) in Greater New Haven. Work may include fundraising, managing institutional relationships, cultivating service partnerships, developing volunteer recruitment strategies and trainings, and supporting shelter design and renovation.

• **Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (Suggested length: one to two pages.)**

**Y2Y New Haven Overview:**

Y2Y New Haven is a joint initiative of students from Dwight Hall at Yale, Youth Continuum, and Y2Y Network to open a student-run homeless shelter for young adults (ages 18-24) in Greater New Haven. Y2Y New Haven is based on the youth-to-youth model employed by Y2Y Harvard Square, the nation’s first student-run homeless shelter for young adults, which was opened in Cambridge, MA in 2015. Young adults often experience homelessness because of abusive or neglectful families, rejection due to their sexual orientation/gender identity (40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ), or because they've aged out of the foster care system without adequate supports. Many youth feel unsafe staying in adult shelters, resorting instead to couch surfing, sleeping on the streets or in abandoned buildings, or engaging in unsafe behavior in exchange for a place to sleep. This results in a high risk of trauma with long-term implications for neurocognitive development as well as mental and physical health. Young adults experiencing homelessness have indicated that they feel safer, are more willing to accept help, confide in staff, and stay at a shelter when they are in a youth-led space. Y2Y's model focuses on quickly getting young people off the streets and into a safe environment surrounded by accessible resources. The model helps youth build long-term, sustainable pathways out of homelessness by providing case management services, legal aid, medical care, and mental health care. Y2Y also empowers youth to advocate for policy and systems change on local, state, and federal levels.
In 2018, the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness estimated that there are 816 youth (ages 18-24) in Greater New Haven who are experiencing homelessness. There are currently only six youth-specific shelter beds in Greater New Haven. We believe that this comprehensive, youth-to-youth model can address the critical need for a safe, trauma-informed youth shelter in New Haven and serve as an effective intervention point in the cycle of chronic homelessness.

History
Y2Y Harvard Square opened in December 2015 to address a critical community need: the lack of beds for young adults experiencing homelessness. Y2Y catalyzed the Cambridge and Boston community to develop and build an innovative, student-run model that provides very safe and low cost shelter to young people. Y2Y’s work has been featured in the Boston Globe, National Public Radio, The Huffington Post, and NowThis. It has been selected to join the portfolio or has been incubated by MassChallenge, The Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation, the Harvard Innovation Lab, and TUGG. Y2Y’s co-founders Sam Greenberg and Sarah Rosenkrantz have been recognized as Forbes 30 under 30, Honorable Mention for the Boston Globe Magazine’s Bostonian of the Year, and the Cambridge GLBT Commission Community Recognition Award Recipients.

Position Overview
This position is an excellent opportunity for anyone seeking to gain hands-on experience in non-profit startup and management and refine their leadership, communication, and management skills. While the Fellow should be independent and self-directed, they will receive strong support and guidance throughout the summer. Working closely with the Y2Y New Haven student team and with Y2Y co-founder Sam Greenberg, the Fellow will be responsible for continuing the momentum of the project through the summer and laying a strong foundation to open the shelter in late 2019/early 2020.

The Fellow will be joining the Y2Y New Haven project at a critical and exciting moment. By the beginning of the summer, we plan to have finalized a proposed site for the shelter, secured zoning approval, and raised a significant portion of capital and operating funding. In the summer of 2019, we hope to begin the renovation process and build on the groundwork that this project has established over the past two years to actually open and operate the shelter.

Possible Job Responsibilities (depending on Fellow’s experience and preferences):

- Line up service partnerships for the shelter, including case management services, legal aid, medical care, and mental health services
• Continue to build close partnerships with other schools in New Haven, including Gateway Community College, Southern Connecticut State University, Albertus Magnus, and the University of New Haven
• Raise capital and operating funding for the shelter
• Aid in shelter design and renovation
• Develop recruiting campaigns and training schedules for shelter staff volunteers
• Develop transportation and logistics systems to bring volunteers to the shelter location and manage in-kind donations (food, supplies, clothing)
• Maintain existing partnerships with key community stakeholders and cultivate new ones
• Strengthen organizational relationships with Youth Continuum, Dwight Hall at Yale, Y2Y Network, and the Yale College Dean’s Office
• Lead on youth engagement and ensure that youth voices continue to play a vital role in shaping the shelter’s development
• Support ad-hoc projects as they arise
• Ensure a smooth transition for the fall semester

• List specific skills/experience required for the project:

Required qualifications:
• Dedicated interest in Y2Y New Haven’s mission to build a safe, trauma-informed and thoughtful space for young adults experiencing homelessness
• Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
• Ability to work both independently and collaboratively
• Excellent written and verbal communication skills
• Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to communicate effectively and professionally
• Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite

Desired/Preferred qualifications:
• Prior experience in working with homelessness, at risk young people, LGBTQ population, or other related populations
• A demonstrated commitment to public service and social justice

• Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):

None.
• Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your organization in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, describe any work that Yale students have done with your organization.

Y2Y New Haven began as a small group of Yale students looking to get involved in initiatives against homelessness in Greater New Haven. While searching for an opportunity to make an impact, these students discovered the work of Y2Y Harvard Square, the nation’s first student-run youth homeless shelter. Inspired and motivated by Y2Y’s youth-to-youth model, students began to think about how to adapt the model to the specific needs in New Haven. Yale student leaders have been working since September 2016 to assess the need for youth shelter in Greater New Haven and create focused interventions for those needs.

Y2Y New Haven has since expanded from its founding team of five students to thirty-four students drawn from the Yale undergraduate and graduate communities. The team is currently comprised completely of Yale students, representing Yale College, Yale Medical School, Yale Law School, Yale Divinity School, and the Yale School of Public Health. Yale students are involved in every single aspect of this project, from developing the program model and liaising with institutional partners to building relationships with key community stakeholders, designing the shelter, and raising funds.

With the generous support of Dwight Hall at Yale and Y2Y Network, Y2Y New Haven was able to fund three summer interns in the summer of 2018. We look forward to hiring interns again for the summer of 2019 and hope to have a Fellow join us.

Note – attached photos represent Y2Y Harvard Square in action, as we are still working to open Y2Y New Haven.