

WhaleWorks Publication No. 002

Safe Haven Youth Center

A Youth Development, Mentorship & Wellness Initiative

Mission

Safe Haven provides a secure, welcoming after-school environment where youth can learn, grow, build relationships with trusted mentors, receive homework assistance, explore technology and creative arts, and develop leadership skills. The program supports mental wellness while reducing barriers to opportunity.

Community Need

Many young people need a positive place to go after school that offers structure, encouragement, and access to caring adults. Safe Haven addresses youth isolation by creating an inclusive environment focused on education, life skills, recreation, and community connection.

Program Components

- After-school supervision
- Homework and tutoring support
- Mentorship and leadership development
- Mental health awareness activities
- Computer and technology access
- Creative arts and music opportunities
- Mini arcade recreation
- Family engagement nights
- Community service projects

Three-Phase Funding Strategy

Phase I – Launch (\$24,000)

Pilot after-school program, learning supplies, mentor training, snacks, technology, insurance, and program coordination serving 40–60 youth annually.

Phase II – Expansion (\$75,000)

Expanded staffing, transportation assistance, additional learning stations, wellness programming, larger recreation area, and year-round services serving up to 200 youth annually.

Phase III – Community Youth Center (\$250,000)

Permanent Safe Haven facility with classrooms, counseling space, technology lab, recreation center, creative arts rooms, and comprehensive youth development programming.

Staffing, Partnerships & Outcomes

Staff: Executive Director, Youth Program Director, Volunteer Mentors, Academic Tutors, Wellness Partners, Community Volunteers.

Key Partnerships: Ocosta School District, local businesses, community organizations, mental health providers, volunteers, and families.

Expected Outcomes: Improved academic engagement, stronger mental wellness, increased leadership skills, safer after-school opportunities, higher workforce readiness, and stronger community connections.

