The Billy Israel Project

Over 550,000 youth in America experience homelessness for more than at least one week each year.

Homelessness amongst youth is a serious and rapidly growing issue in the United States. Studies have shown that there are a variety of reasons for a youth to either become homeless or run away; reasons that include domestic violence, poverty, transitions from foster care, issues relating to sexual identity, and teen pregnancy. It is also estimated that a staggering 75% of homeless youth either have or will drop out of school. Without a stable option for shelter and access to food, medical, and educational resources homeless youth are at a distinctly high risk of depression, suicide, recreational drug use, health problems, and violence.

The Billy Israel Project is a small community of minimal square footage single occupant houses where homeless youth between the ages of 14 and 18 can have access to educational resources, counseling, food, and job opportunities over a period of 12 to 24 months. More importantly, the Billy Israel Project gives homeless youth safety and sense of autonomy. Teens can contribute to the community in the form of maintenance in exchange for food and lodging. It is the mission of the Billy Israel project to provide a stable foundation on which their residents can build a successful future.

The Billy Israel Project aims to create safe and accessible spaces where each resident can live and function with dignity. The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) is a civil rights law that prevents discrimination against individuals with disabilities. The Activist is a fully ADA compliant model that is accessible to all types of physical abilities.

With a goal of creating a community that celebrates individuality and supports the goals and success of each resident, the Billy Israel Project offers ten different tiny house models that residents can choose from. Each model is named after different career options: The Activist, The Artist, The Designer, The Doctor, The Engineer, The Musician, The Olympian, The Ranger, The Scholar, and The Scientist.