
Livingroom & Mentor Family Program

Best Practices Proposal – Deaconess Foundation

Summary:

Olohuone/Livingroom is a low threshold meeting place for young adults between 18-25 years old, who come to Finland have come to Finland as unaccompanied minor asylum seekers (UMAs) and are now in a phase of becoming independent. When young people (UMAs) turn 18, they have to move out of the housing units where they have continuous support and live by themselves. They also have to take care of everyday life issues in their new society as well as go to a Finnish speaking school/studies. They don't know a lot of people and they don't have a lot of networks yet. Olohuone/Livingroom was founded for this need: it is a place where young people can come after school to get help with homework or other issues in life, or just to hang out, make new friends and talk about their day. Livingroom organizes free-time activities during school holidays and weekends. It also works as a link between young people and services, offering a space where they can come together.

Impacts & Achievements:

- Since 2021, more than 500 people have joined the Livingroom
- 70% reported positive life changes in 2024
- 96% received help in areas they needed
- 87% said Livingroom is important or very important to them
- Helped youth stay in school, find jobs, and gain independence

Key words:

Community

Support

Participation

Integration

Well-being

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