

My husband and I have been Hosts with YMCA for over 5 years and we get a lot of joy from helping the young people. We did a preparation course with YMCA which helped us understand what to expect and how to work with the young person's background and experiences.

We've had a number of young people and each one has been important to us; you get to know them personally and form good relationships to help them along the way. We feel like a bridge from wherever they're coming from, to put a roof over their head, give them someone to look up to, to steer them and guide them in the right direction.

Being a host has its challenge as you don't always know what the young person has been through and what help they'll need, but it's wonderful to help them identify what their needs are and we always have support from YMCA if we need it.

It's really lovely to see the transition from when they arrive as total strangers, developing your relationship and learning to compromise with them to make them feel comfortable and respect your home.

Every young person has had something very special about them and I have learned new things which have helped me grow and be more accepting of people. That give me courage to continue being a host.



Gertrude
YMCA Host