

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
--------------------------	---------------	------	-------------

001. fax	cover sheet, Della Hughes to Deanne Benos (partial) (1 page)	10/07/1999	P6/b(6)
----------	--	------------	---------

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Deanne Benos (Subject File)
OA/Box Number: 21323

FOLDER TITLE:

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Reauthorization, 1998

2012-0726-S

kc904

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Ten Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Run Away

1. What else can I do to improve my home situation before I leave?
2. What would make me stay at home?
3. How will I survive?
4. Is running away safe?
5. Who can I count on to help me?
6. Am I being realistic?
7. Have I given this enough thought?
8. What are my other options?
9. If I end up in trouble, who will I call?
10. When I return home, what will happen?

**You can call the National Runaway
Switchboard at 1-800-621-4000
any time of the day or night.
Whether you are thinking of running
or have already run,
we can help you.**



**1-800-621-4000
Free Confidential 24 Hours**

Family Communication Tips!

1. Set aside time to talk every day
2. Don't expect your family to read your mind
3. Be specific about your expectations and requests
4. Have patience, good communication takes time and effort
5. Brainstorm ideas before making a final decision
6. Ask for input from all family members
7. Write things down; make a list of changes you want to see
8. Be willing to compromise
9. Do fun things together
10. Use community resources when you need help

**There are people and places in your
community that can help
your family communicate better.
For ideas and referrals,
call the National Runaway Switchboard
at 1-800-621-4000**



www.nrscrisisline.org

LATH S
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD
3080 NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60657
773.880.9860
773.929.5150 FAX
lthomasnrs@aol.com

1.800.621.4000
NRS HOTLINE NUMBER



We're here to help!

NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD

1-800-621-4000

1-800-621-0394 (TDD) for the hearing impaired

www.nrscrisisline.org

CONFIDENTIAL • FREE • 24 HOURS

312/988-5753
FAX 312/988-5710
jperlin@staff.abanet.org



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Division for Legal Services
541 North Fairbanks Court
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Jeremy F. Perlin
Staff Counsel

LORA THOMAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD
3080 NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60657
773.880.9860
773.929.5150 FAX
lthomasnrs@aol.com

1.800.621.4000
NRS HOTLINE NUMBER

Andrea Kane

02/08/2000 11:55 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Deanne E. Benos/OPD/EOP@EOP

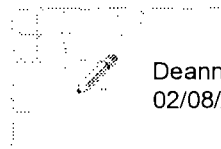
cc: Mary L. Smith/OPD/EOP@EOP, Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP@EOP, Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP@EOP, Eugenia Chough/OPD/EOP@EOP

bcc:

Subject: Re: Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. 

I don't work on this, and maybe either Mary or Ann know more, but I can tell you that RHYA is in fact in HHS (within the Administration for Children and Families). The FY 2001 budget includes \$44 M (same level as FY 99 and FY 00) for runaway and homeless youth. It also includes \$21 M for runaway youth transitional living (compared with \$21 M in FY 00 and \$15 M in FY 99). [See page 468 of the Budget Appendix document]. Beyond that, suggest you contact Patricia Montoya, Commissioner of Administration on Children, Youth and Families who has responsibility for this program. Try 205-8347 (I don't have a direct #). I happen to have her 3/25/99 statement before House Ed & Workforce subcommittee on early childhood, youth and families on reauthorization of the RHYA if you want to come get a copy.

Deanne E. Benos



Deanne E. Benos
02/08/2000 11:29:57 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

We have received some calls on this -- most recently, WH Legislative Affairs has asked us how much funding these programs received in the FY 01 Budget. Is this something that you work on? I believe that RHYA programs are funded by HHS, do you know if this is true? Also, do you have a good contact person for us over at HHS to inquire about this?

	LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR
Basic Centers (includes hotline, etc.)	\$45 million	Combined to get \$74
TLP	\$15 (99) \$20.8 (00) (President got the \$5 million increase.)	Combined to get \$74
Street Outreach	\$15	\$15

Fact Sheet:**Runaway and Homeless Youth Act:
Reauthorization and FY 2000 Appropriations**

The National Network for Youth strongly urges Congress to reauthorize, as quickly as possible, the federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and to appropriate for FY 00 the full authorization amount for these critical programs that serve young people and their families.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) was enacted as Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDPA, P.L. 93-415). RHYA was last reauthorized by amendments to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Amendments of 1992 (P.L. 102-586, 11-27-92). Currently, RHYA is divided into six parts: 1) Runaway and Homeless Youth Grant Program, known as the Basic Centers program; 2) Transitional Living Grant Program; 3) National Communications System, funded through Basic Centers appropriations; 4) Coordinating, Training, Research and Other Activities, also funded through Basic Centers appropriations; 5) General Provisions; and 6) Administrative Provisions. The federal government also funds Education and Prevention Grants to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless and Street Youth, known popularly as the Street Outreach Program. This program was enacted through, and authorized for FY 96-98, by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-322).

In 1998, approximately 83,000 youth were served by Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs (FY98, 1999).

Runaway and Homeless Youth Grant Program

Under the Basic Centers Program, appropriated funds are divided up by state by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) according to each state's relative population of youth under the age of 18 years (except that small states receive a minimum allocation). From the amount reserved for each state, grants are awarded competitively from among applicants in that state. In reviewing applications, the Secretary of HHS is required to give priority to applicants who have experience serving runaway and homeless youth and who are applying for less than \$200,000. When the annual appropriation for this part exceeds \$50,000,000, the Secretary of HHS is authorized to carry out two additional programs involving grants to local centers to provide home-based services and street-based services.

Each grantee must operate a runaway and homeless youth center to provide temporary shelter (through voluntary host homes or emergency shelters) and counseling to runaway and homeless youth. In addition, local centers are required to contact and work with families of runaway and homeless youth, to maintain working relationships with police, schools and other local officials, and to provide aftercare to runaway youth and their families. HHS regulations permit centers to provide shelter to runaway and homeless youth under age 18 for a period of up to 15 days. Centers can provide shelter to up to 20 youth at any given time.

In 1998, 365 agencies received Basic Center funding, with an average grant of \$110,000 and a maximum grant of \$206,000.

The National Network for Youth advocates full funding (\$75 million) for FY 00. \$75 million was authorized for FY 93, with "such sums as may be necessary" for FY 94-96. At least 90 percent of the appropriation for a fiscal year must be spent on Basic Centers. Up to 10 percent may be spent on: (1) the amounts reserved for the National Communications System (approximately \$1 million),

(2) coordination, (3) technical assistance and training (approximately \$1.5 million), and (4) research, demonstration and service projects (including the National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth, and various other contracts). Basic Centers were funded at \$43.653 million for FY 99.

Transitional Living Grant Program

Under the Transitional Living Program, the Secretary of HHS makes grants to public and private nonprofit entities to start and operate transitional living projects for homeless youth. A homeless youth is defined as a young person, aged 16-21, who cannot live "in a safe environment with a relative" and has no other safe, alternative living arrangement. A transitional living project is defined as a project providing youth, for a period up to 18 months, shelter and services designed to promote transition to self-sufficiency and "to prevent long-term dependency on social services." Priority for funding is given to entities experienced in providing homeless youth shelter and transitional living services. Applicants must submit a plan in which they agree to provide shelter (e.g., group homes, host homes, supervised apartments) and services, including information and counseling in basic life skills (i.e., money management, budgeting, consumer education, use of credit, interpersonal skills, educational advancement, and job-getting skills).

Seventy-eight programs were funded through the Transitional Living Program for 1998; the maximum grant was \$200,000 and the average grant was \$180,000.

The National Network for Youth advocates full funding (\$25 million) for FY 00. The President's budget for FY 00 includes \$20 million for the Transitional Living Grant Program, a \$5 million increase from FY 99. For FY 93, \$25 million was authorized with "such sums as may be necessary" for FY 94-96. For FY 99, \$14.949 million was appropriated for the Transitional Living Program.

Education and Prevention Grants to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless and Street Youth (also known as the Street Outreach Program)

Under this program, the Secretary of HHS makes grants to private nonprofits for street-based outreach and education to runaway, homeless and street youth who have been sexually abused or are at risk of sexual abuse. Priority is given to agencies that have experience in providing services to runaway, homeless and street youth. A street youth is defined as a "juvenile who spends a significant amount of time on the street or in other areas of exposure to encounters that may lead to sexual abuse." This program was authorized in the *Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994* as an amendment to the RHYA.

In 1998, 78 agencies received funding. The average grant was \$96,000 and the maximum grant was \$105,000.

The National Network for Youth advocates full funding (\$15 million) for FY 00. Authorization of appropriations: \$7 million for FY 96, \$8 million for FY 97 and \$15 million for FY 98. (Note: federal funding for the program comes from a special trust fund created for programs of the Violent

Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.) In FY 99, \$15 million was appropriated for Street Outreach.

OTHER RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT

National Communications System

Under this program, the Secretary of HHS is authorized to make grants for a national communications system. Currently, one grant is made to the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) in Chicago, Ill. The NRS operates a toll-free telephone system that enables runaway and homeless youth to receive crisis counseling, connect directly to centers nationwide and communicate with their families. In 1998, 160,000 calls were made to the National Runaway Switchboard.

Coordinating, Training, Research and Other Activities

This section of the RHYA allows the Secretary of HHS to make grants to state and regional groups to provide training and technical assistance to eligible programs, to assist them in carrying out programs, projects and activities expected of grantees. The Secretary is also permitted to make discretionary grants to states, localities and private entities (and combinations of these) for research, demonstration and service projects designed to increase knowledge about and improve services for runaway and homeless youth. Priority is given to applicants experienced in working with runaway and homeless youth. Lastly, this section allows the Secretary to make competitive grants to states, localities and private entities (and combinations of these) to provide basic center services to rural youth.

Temporary rural demonstrations were authorized at \$1 million for FY 93-FY 96, but were never funded.

General Provisions

This section allows the Secretary of HHS to enter into "cooperative lease agreements" with states, localities and private nonprofits to use surplus federal facilities for Basic Centers and Transitional Living Programs. Federal facilities used for Basic Centers or Transitional Living Programs have to be available, at no charge, for at least two years.

Administrative Provisions

The federal share of an applicant's budget is up to 90 percent; the grantees' match (i.e., non-federal share of 10 percent) can be in cash or in kind (including plant, equipment or services). Payments may be made in installments, in advance or through reimbursement.

Fact Sheet: Runaway and Homeless Youth

There are no "typical" runaway or homeless youth. They come from a variety of backgrounds and environments. Some have been forced out or have run away from their family homes due to abuse and neglect. Others have run away from residential facilities or foster homes. There are as many different stories as there are runaway and homeless youth.

Despite these differences, understanding who these youth are, why they leave their families or institutional homes, what unique challenges they face, and what promising strategies exist for meeting those challenges, is essential if we, as a society, are to meet the needs of these young people while working to change the circumstances that got them there in the first place.

Definitions

The following terms, as defined by the National Network for Youth, describe the situations of young people who leave or are without a home.

- ◆ *Runaway youth* are young people under the age of 18 who are away from home at least one night without the permission of parents or guardians. Some youth workers debate the relevancy of permission, because many youth leave home to find a safer environment.
- ◆ *Homeless youth* lack parental, foster home, or institutional care. Many of these youth feel that they have no homes to return to, either because of conflicts with their families, because they have lost track of their families, or because their families are homeless as well. Some young people from other countries can also find themselves homeless and face language, cultural, and legal barriers. These young people are sometimes referred to as "unaccompanied" youth.
- ◆ *Throwaway youth* are young people left to fend for themselves because parents or guardians have encouraged them to leave or have abandoned them.
- ◆ *Street youth* are often long-term runaway, homeless, or throwaway youth who literally live day-to-day on the streets. Some sleep in parks, others in abandoned buildings, or in some other type of makeshift shelter.
- ◆ *System youth* have been at one time or are still in custody of the state due to child abuse, neglect, or other serious family problems. Some have been placed in a series of foster homes and/or group homes and may eventually run away from such care.

Dimensions

It is extraordinarily difficult to determine the exact size of the runaway and homeless youth population. Estimates for this group of young people vary widely. The major reasons for this variance include: there is no common agreement about what constitutes runaway behavior; many of these youth come from families that fail to report their absences; these young people are typically transient and therefore not in a fixed place long enough to be surveyed; research on these youth tends to be gathered in urban areas and cannot be generalized to other geographic areas; and both runaway and homeless youth generally distrust adults and service systems and hence often choose to avoid them.

It is estimated that 1 to 1.3 million youth run away from their homes each year (U.S. General Accounting Office [GAO], 1989). A 1988 study of missing, abducted, runaway and "throwaway" youth reported the number of runaways and throwaways to be 577,800 in a year (Finkelhor et al., 1990). In a more recent study by the Research Triangle Institute (RTI), an estimated 2.8 million youth living in

households in the United States reported a runaway experience during the prior year (Greene et al., 1995). The size of the homeless youth population has been estimated to be approximately 300,000 young people each year (Institute for Health Policy Studies, 1995). Reports from the field indicate that the number of runaway and homeless youth is rising. While data can validate the scope of the phenomenon, debating the actual number of youth who have run away or are homeless can deflect attention from the hard reality of the dire circumstances in which so many young people live.

Demographics

The ages of runaway and homeless youth generally range from 12 to 21. Government reports typically indicate that the majority of youth who run away are between 14 and 17 years of age, and those who live on the streets are between 16 and 21 years of age (GAO, 1989). These ranges are partially influenced by services provided at the federally-funded runaway and homeless youth Basic Centers, which are restricted to serving youth under age 18, and Transitional Living Programs, which serve homeless youth aged 16 to 21.

Female youth served by shelters are typically about 60% of the total and males 40%. The percentages are almost reversed by gender for youth on the streets (Greene et al., 1995).

Regarding race and ethnicity, the RTI study found that youth of color are over-represented in this population. In the shelter survey, 31.7% of youth were white, 40.7% were black, 19.7% Hispanic, and 7.9% other. Data collected from street youth also indicated over-representation: 45.9% were white, 27.4% black, 17.7% Hispanic, and 9% other (Greene et al., 1995).

Why Do Youth Run?

The vast majority of runaway youth are not running "to" something; rather, they are running "away" from situations that endanger their physical and/or mental health. In most cases, running away is a means of escaping numerous problems that exist in the "home environment," be it the natural family, extended family, foster home, or group home. Severe family conflict, physical and sexual abuse, and parental alcohol and other drug abuse remain the key causal factors for runaway behavior.

◆ A recent study for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that 46% of runaway and homeless youth had been physically abused and 17% had been forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member (Westat, 1997).

◆ Another 1997 study for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that 38% of runaway and homeless youth reported emotional abuse by a parent figure (Caliber Associates, 1997).

◆ The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), in a report to the U.S. Congress, estimated that 36% of homeless and 18% of runaway youth experienced parental neglect defined as "a parent figure failing to provide basic food, clothing, shelter, medical care, etc. for the youth." Domestic violence was also cited by 11% of homeless and 8% of runaway youth as a reason for running away from home (GAO, 1989).

◆ In a survey conducted for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), approximately 66% of runaway and homeless youth reported having an alcoholic parent. Having a drug-abusing parent was reported by 25% of the youth sample (NASW, 1992).

◆ The NASW study also reported that more than 1 in 5 youth who arrived at shelters came directly from foster care and that more than 1 in 4 had been in foster care the previous year (NASW, 1992). In a Chicago study, it was found that 95% of homeless youth interviewed reported that they had been a ward of the Department of Child and Family Services (Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, 1991).

Consequences of Running Away

Runaway and homeless youth who endure "life on the streets" face a number of serious challenges to their overall health and well-being. For example:

- ◆ While homeless, youth often suffer from poor hygiene, lack of sleep, high exposure to violence (as both victims and witnesses), and difficult weather conditions — which can result in a variety of medical problems. Various studies have found that injuries, malnutrition, and skin infections (such as lice and scabies) are serious health problems for homeless youth (Farrow et al., 1992; Deisher et al., 1991; Reuler, 1991).
- ◆ The high level of psychological disorders found among runaway youth is not surprising given the reasons they left home, the conditions under which they live, and their lack of familial support and other social bonds. In one study, the rates of major depression, conduct disorder, and post-traumatic stress syndrome were found to be three times as high among runaway youth as among youth who have not run away (Robertson, 1989). Other studies have found consistently higher suicide attempt rates for homeless youth than for domiciled youth (Rotheram-Borus, 1993).
- ◆ While living on the streets, some runaway and homeless youth find that exchanging sex for basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, or protection, is their only chance for survival; in several samples of homeless youth in Hollywood, CA, 26% of runaways who were clients of a health clinic reported involvement in "survival sex" compared to only 0.2% among non-runaway youth. Similarly, about one-third of a Hollywood street youth sample reported ever trading sex for money, food, or shelter, most (75%) doing so only when homeless (Yates et al., 1988; Robertson, 1989).
- ◆ Runaway and homeless youth who must engage in survival sex — where multiple partners, increased use/abuse of alcohol and other drugs, and unprotected sexual behaviors are common — are at increased risk for HIV infection. Several studies of runaway and homeless youth have found high HIV prevalence rates, ranging from 5.3% in New York City, 11.5% in Hollywood, CA, and 12.9% in Houston, TX (Stricof et al., 1991; Pfeifer et al., 1997; Busen et al., 1997). It has been suggested that the rate of HIV prevalence in this population may be as much as 2 to 10 times higher than the rates reported for other samples of adolescents in the United States (Stricof et al., 1990).
- ◆ In addition to HIV infection, high rates of other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and unintended pregnancies have also been reported among these youth (Kral et al., 1997). In one study, more than half of all homeless adolescent girls reported becoming pregnant while on the streets (Deisher et al., 1989).
- ◆ Homeless youth encounter many difficulties attending school as well; these include legal guardianship requirements, residency requirements, lack of proper records, and inadequate or nonexistent transportation. As a result, many of these young people struggle in obtaining an education and supporting themselves emotionally and financially (National Coalition for the Homeless, 1997). In a 1989 GAO report, youth living on the streets were reported as the least likely to have been attending school when they arrived at a shelter program (GAO, 1989).

References

1. Busen NH and Beech B. 1997. A collaborative model for community-based health care screening of homeless adolescents. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 13(5):316-324.
2. Caliber Associates. 1997. *Analysis and Interpretation of New Information Concerning Runaway and Homeless Youth*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.
3. Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. 1991. *Alone After Dark: A Survey of Homeless Youth in Chicago*. Chicago, IL: Author.
4. Deisher RW, Rogers WM. 1991. The medical care of street youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 12:500-503.
5. Deisher RW, Farrow JA, Hope K, Litchfield C. 1989. The pregnant adolescent prostitute. *American Journal of Diseases of Children*, 143:1162-1165.
6. Farrow JA, Deisher RW, Brown R, Kulig JW, Kipke MD. 1992. Health and mental health needs of homeless and runaway youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 13:717-726.
7. Finkelhor D, Hotaling G, Sedlak A. 1990. *Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children in America*. First Report: Numbers and Characteristics, National Incidence Studies. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
8. Greene J et al. 1995. *Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At-Risk Behaviors*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.
9. Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California, San Francisco. 1995. *Street Youth at Risk for AIDS*. San Francisco, CA: Author.
10. Kral AH, Molnar BE, Booth RE, Watters JK. 1997. Prevalence of sexual risk behaviour and substance use among runaway and homeless adolescents in San Francisco, Denver and New York City. *International Journal of STD & AIDS*, 8:109-117.
11. National Association of Social Workers. 1992. *Helping Vulnerable Youths: Runaway and Homeless Adolescents in the United States*. Washington, DC: NASW Press.
12. National Coalition for the Homeless. 1997. *Fact Sheet, Number 13: Homeless Youth*. Washington, DC: Author.
13. Pfeifer RW, Oliver J. 1997. A study of HIV seroprevalence in a group of homeless youth in Hollywood, California. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 20(5):339-342.
14. Reuler JB. 1991. Outreach services for street youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 12:561-566.
15. Robertson MJ. 1989. *Homeless Youth in Hollywood: Patterns of Alcohol Use*. Bethesda, MD: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Report No. C51.
16. Rotheram-Borus MJ. 1993. Suicidal behavior and risk factors among runaway youths. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 150(1):103-107.
17. Stricof RL, Kennedy JT, Nattell TC, et al. 1991. HIV seroprevalence in a facility for runaway and homeless adolescents. *American Journal of Public Health*, 81(Suppl.):50-53.
18. Stricof RL, Novick LF, Kennedy JT. 1990. HIV seroprevalence in facilities for runaway and homeless adolescents in four states: Florida, Texas, Louisiana and New York. Paper presented at the Sixth International Conference on AIDS, San Francisco, CA.
19. United States General Accounting Office. 1989. *Homelessness: Homeless and Runaway Youth Receiving Services at Federally Funded Shelters*. Washington, DC: Author.
20. Westat, Inc. 1997. *National Evaluation of Runaway and Homeless Youth*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.
21. Yates GL, MacKenzie R, et al. 1988. A risk profile comparison of runaway and non-runaway youth. *American Journal of Public Health*, 78:820-821.

Fact Sheet: Programs and Services for Runaway and Homeless Youth

Community-based youth-serving programs work closely with runaway and homeless youth and their families to assist them in learning the skills necessary to communicate and live together whenever possible. At times, efforts needed to reunite families require intensive intervention in order to help family members learn new, more productive ways of relating to one another and strategies for managing their lives. If reunification is not an option (e.g., because of parental abuse), agency staff can assist young people in learning basic life skills such as completing school, finding a job, and keeping healthy.

Runaway and homeless youth benefit from programs in which they are actively engaged as participants, their immediate needs are met, and services are far-reaching in scope (including outreach, crisis intervention, stabilization, and long-term support and aftercare). Effective programs are characterized by the following attributes: flexibility, comprehensiveness, responsiveness, front-line discretion, high standards of quality and good management, a family focus (where appropriate), community rootedness, a clear mission, and respectful, trusting relations (Schorr, 1997). These attributes are supported by theory, a convergent body of research, and front-line experience of youth-service professionals.

Based on available information collected by the National Network for Youth, the following are examples of programs that have shown promise in working with runaway and homeless youth.

- ◆ **The Sanctuary, in Pontiac, Michigan**, offers youth emergency shelter and transitional living programs. Based on data collected from contacts with youth and families 90 days after they received care, the agency reported that 84% of the youth were currently in safe living situations and 99% of the youth had avoided homelessness (The Sanctuary, 1997).
- ◆ **Huckleberry House, in San Francisco, California**, provides 24-hour crisis intervention and resolution services, including family preservation and mediation counseling. Results from a multi-year, comprehensive outcomes-based evaluation of their services found that approximately 72% of the youth served reported that the physical abuse they had been experiencing stopped by the time of their aftercare interview. Also, 52.2% reported that the emotional abuse they had been experiencing had stopped by time of follow-up (Harder+Company Community Research, 1998).
- ◆ **New Beginnings, in Lewiston, Maine**, has successfully integrated HIV prevention education throughout its shelter and transitional living programs, serving youth 12 to 21 years of age. Named as one of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Reputationally Strong Programs," New Beginnings' HIV prevention component has shown promise in reducing risk behaviors and/or increasing protective behaviors. For example, youth participants have shown an increased tendency to use condoms, correctly identify high-risk behaviors for HIV, and reduce the number of their sexual partners (Communication Sciences Group, in press).
- ◆ **Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center, in Matteson, Illinois**, provides crisis intervention and family stabilization services for acute situations that have a potential for family disruption through their Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS) program. Outcome data collected from an agency study in 1997 found that 96% of runaway and other youth served were reunited with their families within 21 days of receiving services (Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center, 1997).
- ◆ **YouthCare's Orion Center, in Seattle, Washington**, provides comprehensive case management services to runaway and homeless youth. In a joint research venture with the University of Washington, YouthCare reported that nine to twelve months after entering the program, youth's aggression, depression, anxiety, delinquency and substance abuse decreased (Cause et al., in press).

References

1. Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center. 1997. Comprehensive Services Unit, CCBYS Outcome Report. Unpublished.
2. Cause AM, Paradise M, Embry L, et al. In press. Homeless youth in Seattle: Youth characteristics, mental health needs, and intensive case management. In K. Kutash, A Duchnowski, and M. Epstein (Eds.), *Community Based Programming for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances and their Families: Research and Evaluation*. Tampa, FL: University of South Florida Press.
3. Communication Sciences Group. In press. *Reputationally Strong Programs Project*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Behavioral Intervention Research Branch.
4. Harder+Company Community Research. 1998. *Huckleberry Youth Programs: A Profile of Youth Accessing Huckleberry House Services*. San Francisco, CA: Author.
5. Schorr LB. 1997. *Common Purpose: Strengthening Families and Neighborhoods to Rebuild America*. New York, NY: Doubleday.
6. The Sanctuary, Inc. 1997. *Annual Report*. Pontiac, MI: Author.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH

To: Deanne Benos
Agency: White House
FAX Number: 456-7028

From: MIRIAM ROLLIN
Date: 10.7.99
Pages: 10

Please call cassandra at (202) 783-7949 if there are any questions regarding this fax.

X 3112

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH
1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401
Washington, DC 20004



A Tribute to
the Past,
A Vision for
the Future:
25 Years
Working with
YOUTH



February 6-9, 2000
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, DC
25th Anniversary of the
National Network for Youth



NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH

TO: Deanne Benos

AGENCY: White House

FAX NUMBER: 202-456-7028

FROM: Miriam Rollin

DATE: 11-5-99

PAGES: 3

PLEASE CALL CASSAN LYN AT 202.783.7949 EXT. 3112
IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS FAX.

NOTE: FYI

This letter was sent to the
Full Senate; a similar letter was
sent to the House.

1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20004
phone: 202-783-7949 fax: 202-783-7955
www.NN4Youth.org

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH

1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401

Washington, DC 20004-1106

202.783.7949

202.783.7955 Fax

<http://www.NN4Youth.org>

e-mail: NN4Youth@Worldnet.att.net

November 3, 1999

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the hundreds of non-profit youth-serving organizations, youth workers and young people from around the nation who constitute the membership of the National Network for Youth, we call upon you to support maximum funding for the three Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs as you and your colleagues in the House and Senate finalize FY2000 appropriations levels in the Labor/HHS/Education bill. **In particular, we strongly urge you to demand the full \$20 million for the Transitional Living Program, as proposed by the President, and passed by the Senate in S. 1650.** This level is a \$5 million increase from the current funding level—which is clearly insufficient to meet the needs of youth around the nation for services through this program—and a much-needed \$3 million increase over the recently conferenced appropriation number in H.R. 3064.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs provide critical assistance to youth in high-risk situations all over the country. The RHYA includes three major grant programs. The Basic Center Program provides grants to support temporary shelter for youth under age 18, counseling for youth and their families in order to assist them in a time of crisis, and support for a national runaway hot-line, regional training, and technical assistance for youth workers and their agencies. The Street Outreach Program provides grants to support street-based outreach and education to runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been sexually abused or are at risk of sexual abuse, in order to connect these most vulnerable youth with services and a chance for a safe and healthy future. The Transitional Living Program provides grants to support longer-term (up to 18 months) shelter as well as independent living services to youth ages 16-21 who are unable to return home safely, in order to promote their successful transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency. Appropriating the additional \$3 million that was included in S. 1650 would enable approximately 800 more youth to participate in the intensive Transitional Living Program. **Without the additional funding, Congress is sending the message to hundreds of homeless youth without any other chance for a better future: you are expendable.** Doesn't this nation want to provide these youth in high-risk situations with better alternatives than crime and welfare dependency?

The following are a few key points that we hope you will consider as you decide upon appropriations levels for these three programs:

- Runaway and homeless youth are not running TO anything; they're running FROM homes where they have experienced parental neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse, or other situations like family violence, parental alcoholism or substance abuse. Some of these youth have been failed by the child welfare system and perceive the streets as preferable to endless shuffling from one foster home or group home to another.
- Runaway and homeless youth face numerous dangers on the streets: lack of education, health care and job training opportunities; increased risk of substance abuse, depression,

early pregnancy, and HIV infection; and the dangers of physical and sexual assault from adults who prey on these youth.

- The three federal runaway and homeless youth programs support cost-effective community-based services for these youth, to protect them from the harms of life on the streets and either reunify them safely with family or find alternative appropriate placements.

The Transitional Living Program (TLP) received an appropriation of \$14.949 million for FY1999, and has been authorized at \$25 million. ***We urge you to support an appropriation of \$20 million for the Transitional Living Program for FY2000, as proposed by the President and as provided for in the original Senate-passed bill (S. 1650).*** An increased appropriation is particularly important in this program this year, given the priority placed on this program by the Administration, and given the fact that the number of high-quality youth service provider applications has far exceeded the available funding slots. Last year, there were nearly three times as many qualified TLP applications as could be funded given the limited funding available. This year the number of applications was just as great. Without a significant increase in funding, just as many programs are expected to be rejected SOLELY for lack of available funding. If those circumstances alone are not persuasive, please listen to the stories of two youth recently served by the Transitional Living Program:

- "I was born and raised in Chicago. My mom has a drug problem and my dad is an alcoholic. They separated when I was little. I lived with my mom, my aunt, and her four children. One day my mom left. I didn't know where she was. Soon, things didn't work out with my aunt, so I left and lived on the streets. I stayed in school the whole time. I didn't tell my teachers or friends about this, but I wrote a poem about homelessness. One of my teachers read it and said I had to know first-hand from what I'd written. I was referred to Teen Living Programs [funded through the federal Transitional Living Program]. I am proud that I graduated from high school and the TLP. Now I'm working full-time, have an apartment, and I'm going back to college." -- Kim, age 20
- "Two years ago I was homeless. I was in and out of foster homes until I was 16, when the state took me away for good from my mom and my stepfather, because of physical and emotional abuse. I had a foster family for two years, but I had to leave when I turned 18. I tried technical college, but that didn't work out; I tried to join the Army, but I didn't get in. I had no money and no place to go. I stayed for a while with my last foster family, and they helped me find the Transitional Living Program at the Youth Services Bureau, in Montpelier, Vermont. Now I have my own apartment, and I'm in college part-time. I'm going full-time this August." -- Stacie, age 20

The Transitional Living, Basic Center, and Street Outreach Programs provide a crucial service to vulnerable youth at a pivotal juncture in their lives. Please demand maximum funding for these programs in FY2000, for the benefit of these youth and for the benefit of their communities.

Sincerely,

Della M. Hughes
Executive Director

Miriam A. Rollin
Director of Public Policy



NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH

To: **Deanne Benos**
Agency: **The White House**
FAX Number: **456-7028**

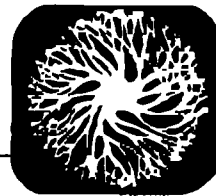
From: **Cassandra McKee**
Date: **10/22/99**
Pages: **3**

Please call **Kristina** at (202) 783-7949 if there are any questions regarding this fax.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH
1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401
Washington, DC 20004



NATIONAL NETWORK



FOR YOUTH

1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401

Washington, DC 20004-1106

202.783.7949

202.783.7955 Fax

<http://www.NN4Youth.org>e-mail: NN4Youth@Worldnet.att.net

October 15, 1999

Dear Member of the Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of the hundreds of non-profit youth-serving organizations, youth workers and young people from around the nation who constitute the membership of the National Network for Youth, we urge you to support maximum funding for the three Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Programs as you and your colleagues in the House and Senate Appropriations Committees determine the final FY2000 appropriations levels in the Labor/HHS/Education bill. **In particular, we strongly urge you to support the Senate-passed appropriation level of \$20 million for the Transitional Living Program, as proposed by the President.** This level is a \$5 million increase from the current funding level – and the current level is clearly insufficient to meet the needs of youth around the nation for services through this program.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs provide critical assistance to youth in high-risk situations all over the country. The RHYA includes three major grant programs. The Basic Center Program provides grants to support temporary shelter for youth under age 18, counseling for youth and their families in order to assist them in a time of crisis, and support for a national runaway hot-line, regional training, and technical assistance for youth workers and their agencies. The Transitional Living Program provides grants to support longer-term (up to 18 months) shelter as well as independent living services to youth ages 16 - 21 who are unable to return home safely, in order to promote their successful transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency. The Street Outreach Program provides grants to support street-based outreach and education to runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been sexually abused or are at risk of sexual abuse, in order to connect these most vulnerable youth with services and a chance for a safe and healthy future.

The following are a few key points that we hope you will consider as you decide upon appropriations levels for these three programs:

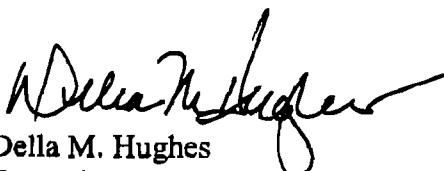
- Runaway and homeless youth are not running TO anything; they're running FROM homes where they have experienced parental neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse, or other situations like family violence or parental alcoholism or substance abuse. Some of these youth have been failed by the child welfare system and perceive the streets as preferable to endless shuffling from one foster home or group home to another.
- Runaway and homeless youth face numerous dangers on the streets: lack of education, health care and job training opportunities; increased risk of substance abuse, depression, early pregnancy, and HIV infection; and the dangers of physical and sexual assault from adults who prey on these youth.
- The three federal runaway and homeless youth programs support cost-effective community-based services for these youth, to protect them from the harms of life on the streets and either reunify them safely with family or find alternative appropriate placements.

The Transitional Living Program (TLP) received an appropriation of \$14,949 million for FY1999, and has been authorized at \$25 million. *We urge you to support an appropriation of \$20 million for the Transitional Living Program for FY2000, as proposed by the President and as provided for in the Senate-passed bill.* An increased appropriation is particularly important in this program this year, given the priority placed on this program by the Administration, and given the fact that the number of high-quality youth service provider applications has far exceeded the available funding slots (award decisions for this program were just announced last month, and many excellent applications were rejected SOLELY for lack of available funding). If those circumstances alone are not persuasive, please listen to the stories of two youth recently served by the Transitional Living Program:

- "I was born and raised in Chicago. My mom has a drug problem and my dad is an alcoholic. They separated when I was little. I lived with my mom, my aunt, and her four children. One day my mom left. I didn't know where she was. Soon, things didn't work out with my aunt, so I left and lived on the streets. I stayed in school the whole time. I didn't tell my teachers or friends about this, but I wrote a poem about homelessness. One of my teachers read it and said I had to know first-hand from what I'd written. I was referred to Teen Living Programs [funded through the federal Transitional Living Program]. I am proud that I graduated from high school and the TLP. Now I'm working full-time, have an apartment, and I'm going back to college." -- Kim, age 20
- "Two years ago I was homeless. I was in and out of foster homes until I was 16, when the state took me away for good from my mom and my stepfather, because of physical and emotional abuse. I had a foster family for two years, but I had to leave when I turned 18. I tried technical college, but that didn't work out; I tried to join the Army, but I didn't get in. I had no money and no place to go. I stayed for a while with my last foster family, and they helped me find the Transitional Living Program at the Youth Services Bureau, in Montpelier, Vermont. Now I have my own apartment, and I'm in college part-time. I'm going full-time this August." -- Stacie, age 20

The Transitional Living, Basic Center, and Street Outreach Programs provide a crucial service to vulnerable youth at a pivotal juncture in their lives. Please support maximum funding for these programs in FY2000, for the benefit of these youth and for the benefit of their communities.

Sincerely,


Della M. Hughes
Executive Director


Miriam A. Rollin
Director of Public Policy

cc: Deanne Benos

NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD

FAX COVER SHEET

FAX GOING TO: DEANNE BENOS
(202) 456-7028

FAX FROM: LORA THOMAS
National Runaway Switchboard
Home 773/539-3585

DATE: October 7, 1999

PAGE: 1 of 8

Deanne:

Thanks for thinking about us in this milestone event for youth and families! I hope this background information will be helpful; we'll keep paring our messages and will provide possible quotes and youth-based scenarios later today.

If you're inclined our web site (www.nrscrisisline.org) should provide additional information and angles.

Key talking points may be:

In the last 25 years of service as the national communication system for runaway and homeless youth and their families, the NRS has worked with well over ~~X~~ 2 million youth and families, providing crisis intervention services and linking them to community-based services in every corner of the country.

We're now working with second generations.... parents have called thanking us that we're still here... they used NRS services as youth, and now they're glad we're their for their children as well.

Key Stats: 1,234 kids leave home every day (Children's Defense Fund)

1 out of 7 youth will run away at some point in time.

The Home Free program (NRS' transportation program in partnership with Greyhound) has reunited more than 8,000 youth and families. The program's success can be

dedicated
volunteer organization - only 15 fulltime staff for 24 hour hotline!
→ with schools + law enforcement too

NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD

measured at a 92% rate in family reunification and preservation.

NRS has declared November 8 - 12 as Runaway Prevention Week. For information call:
1-800-621-4000.

Deanne, there will be more to follow!

Thanks
Jim

In case of transmission error phone the National Runaway Switchboard
at (773) 880-9860.

MISSION & HISTORY

MISSION STATEMENT

The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to provide crisis intervention and referrals for youth and their families through national and local telephone switchboards, as well as advocacy and educational services on the problems of youth.

HISTORY

In 1971, a Chicago-based volunteer agency named Metro-Help was formed to fill a need for comprehensive counseling and crisis intervention for youth in the Chicago metropolitan area. A consortium of community-based agencies with expertise in the delivery of youth services pooled their resources to act as a centralized organization with three distinct attributes:

- Round the clock availability
- Expertise in all youth-related issues
- Capacity to serve as an information and referral exchange

In 1974, in response to numerous murders of runaway youth, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act called for creation of a national communication system to help youth communicate with their parents and connect with youth-serving agencies. Metro-Help successfully completed a demonstration project and was awarded the federal grant that continues to fund the agency today.

In 1991, to more clearly define the mission and services of the organization, the agency's name was changed to the National Runaway Switchboard. The NRS continues to provide the three main objectives of the founding organization and has expanded its service to include much more.

CONTACT INFORMATION

National Runaway Switchboard
3080 North Lincoln Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60657

Telephone: (773) 880-9860
Facsimile: (773) 929-5150

Lora Thomas, Executive Director

Crisis Line: 1-800-621-4000
Website: www.nrscrisisline.org
E-mail: info@nrscrisisline.org

Agency &
Information: 1-800-344-2785
TDD: 1-800-621-3094

NRS CRISIS LINE SERVICES

CRISIS INTERVENTION

The NRS crisis line operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls to the crisis line are anonymous and confidential. It is the philosophy of the NRS to handle all calls in a non-judgmental and non-directive manner.

Volunteers and staff answering the crisis line use a five-step crisis intervention model and active listening skills. The crisis intervention model empowers callers to take control of their situation and devise their best solution for change. This intervention model includes the following steps: Establish Rapport, Explore Facts & Feelings, Focus on the Main Issue(s), Explore Options, Establish a Plan of Action.

MESSAGE SERVICE

The NRS message service allows runaways and their families to safely initiate communication. To place a message, either party calls the NRS and leaves a message for the other. If a parent (or legal guardian) leaves a message for their youth, the NRS will hold the message for them. Parents are instructed to let the youth's friends and relatives know that there is a message waiting for them, only a phone call away at the NRS. When a runaway leaves a message, the message for the parent is delivered as soon as possible by NRS volunteers or staff.

CONFERENCE CALLS

At the youth's request, and when appropriate, the NRS will conference calls from the crisis line to a third party. When conferencing to a parent or legal guardian, the NRS will act as a mediator to help the youth and their parent reestablish communication. The NRS remains unbiased and works to achieve a mutually beneficial plan of action. If a youth needs assistance from a community-based organization or agency, the NRS will call to ensure continuation of services. For youth suffering from abuse or neglect, the NRS can assist the youth in making a child abuse report no matter where they are in the US.

REFERRALS

The NRS offers a wealth of information, resources, and referrals including a computerized database of over 15,000 agencies and organizations that can be searched by service, city, and state. NRS' hard copy library contains an additional 120,000 resources. Referrals can be made for counseling, alternative housing, runaway shelters, substance abuse treatment, medical assistance, legal information, and child protective services. Agencies that would like to be added to the database should call the Agency and Information hotline at 1-800-344-2785.

HOME FREE

In October of 1995, the NRS joined forces with Greyhound Lines, Inc. to administer the Home Free program. This family reunification service offers free one-way tickets home for qualified runaway youth. The program has been a tremendous success and reunites over 200 runaway youth with their families each month.

In order to qualify, youth must be between the ages of 12-18, reported as a runaway with their hometown police department, and returning to their legal guardian who has given permission for their youth to travel. Home Free is a voluntary program.

All Home Free tickets must be initiated by the youth calling the NRS crisis line. The NRS will discuss the youth's situation and their motivation for running away. The youth's parent will be called and the NRS will mediate a discussion to develop a plan of action for the family. Referrals to community-based organizations will be offered. Once a runaway report has been verified, a ticket will be booked through Greyhound's main ticketing office and the youth can be escorted to the bus depot for their departure.

HIGHLIGHTS

Over 8,020 tickets have been issued.

Total value of tickets issued is over \$703,000.

92% of the youth receiving a Home Free ticket return home as scheduled

1998 STATISTICS

1708 Home Free tickets issued

60% of Home Free tickets are issued to females, 40% to males

Average age of a Home Free youth is 16 years old

93% of Home Free tickets issued are for interstate travel

Half of Home Free youth have run away at least once before

NATIONAL STATISTICS

The National Runaway Switchboard received over 100,000 calls in fiscal year 1998.

Gender of Callers:

Female	Male
74%	26%

Age of Youth Callers:

<10	11-13	14-17
3%	11%	86%

Status of youth at the Time of the Call:

Runaway	Contemplating Running Away	Youth in Crisis	Homeless	Throwaway
64%	10%	22%	1%	3%

Length of time Runaway Youth was on the Run at the Time of Call:

0-3 Days	4-7 Days	1-4 Weeks	1-6 Months	> 6 Months
39%	22%	15%	19%	5%

356% of all runaway youth state they had run away before

40% of all runaway youth cross state lines

Issues Cited by NRS Callers:

Family Dynamics (divorce, remarriage, problems with siblings, extended family)	40%	School (problems with teachers/administration, suspension, expulsion)	8%
Peer/Social (pressure from friends, gang issues, dating and relationships)	15%	Alcohol/Drug Abuse (by youth, friend, parent, family member, treatment concerns)	5%
Youth Services (relationship with social worker, placement in alternative housing)	7%	Mental Health (depression, suicide, counseling or therapy concerns and referrals)	5%
Abuse (neglect, emotional maltreatment, physical abuse, sexual abuse)	8%	Judicial System (criminal involvement, probation/parole of self or others)	3%
Transportation (use the Home Free program)	6%	Health (physical ailment, pregnancy, STD's including HIV/AIDS)	2%
		Sexuality (homosexuality, bisexuality, sexual identity concerns of self or others)	1%

WEBSITE

In 1997, the NRS launched its website: www.nrscrisisline.org. The site receives over 15,000 hits every week.

FEATURES

Teen Info helps teens learn more about crisis intervention and what to expect when they call the crisis line. Look for the NRS list of ten questions teens should ask themselves before they run away.

Services for Parents includes resources and actions for parents whose children are thinking about running away, are on the run, or have returned home. "Family Communication Tips" and the family counseling sections provide useful information.

Links will help locate resources on-line for teens, parents, and agencies. Links are divided into national and regional sections.

Statistics reflect the demographics of NRS callers in the recent fiscal year. National and regional statistics can be downloaded for easy use.

Get on the Mailing List to receive NRS information via postal mail or email. People on the mailing list receive the NRS quarterly newsletter, *Frontline*, and other alerts and information.

Order Promotional Materials for your school, community group, place of employment, or youth group. All materials are free of charge.

Bulletin Board messages and questions can be left confidentially and will be answered within 72 hours.

AWARDS

The NRS website has received a great deal of attention and recognition. The website has received the following honors: Family World Village Site of the Week, True Style Award, Elite Site Award, Jayde Gold Diamond Award, Market-Tek Design Award and listed on Yahoo's and Netscape's "What's New" sections.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION TIPS

- 1. Set aside time to talk every day**
- 2. Don't expect your family to read your mind**
- 3. Be specific about your expectations and requests**
- 4. Have patience, good communication takes time and effort**
- 5. Brainstorm ideas before making a final decision**
- 6. Ask for input from all family members**
- 7. Write things down; make a list of changes you would like to see**
- 8. Be willing to compromise**
- 9. Do fun things together**
- 10. Use community resources when you need help**

**There are people and places in your community
that can help your family
communicate better.**

**For ideas and referrals,
call the National Runaway Switchboard
at 1-800-621-4000**

www.nrscrisisline.org

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH

To: *Deanne Benson*

Agency:

FAX Number: *456-7028*

From: *Brenna Starkman (for Della Hughes)*

Date: *10/8/99*

Pages: *5*

Please call *X3106* at (202) 783-7949 if there are any questions regarding this fax.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH
1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401
Washington, DC 20004



1111 WEST LAKE COOK ROAD
BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS 60089
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

PHONE#: 847-537-8871

FAX#: 847-541-0228

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 7 OCTOBER 1999

TO: DEELA HUGHES

FROM: J.H. WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 2

COMMENTS:

Denis Murnstein of the Chicago Youth Network Council contacted
our organization regarding a successful situation that we
handled under the Runaway & Homeless Act. Attached is an
article regarding a situation that one of our counselors worked
with.

**PLEASE ADVISE IF ALL PAGES
ARE NOT RECEIVED**

THIS CORRESPONDENCE WAS SENT BY ELECTRONIC FAX TRANSMISSION. THE MESSAGE MAY CONTAIN
CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED INFORMATION, PROTECTED FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER FEDERAL AND/OR
STATE LAW. IT IS INTENDED FOR THE USE OF THE PARTY TO WHOM IT IS ADDRESSED ONLY. IN THE EVENT
SOME OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY RECEIVES THE MESSAGE, SAID RECIPIENT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY
DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR DUPLICATION OF THE MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED. IN THE EVENT THE
MESSAGE IS RECEIVED BY A PERSON OR ENTITY OTHER THAN THE SPECIFIED RECIPIENT OR THE
RECIPIENT'S AGENT, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE, COLLECT, AND RETURN THE
ENTIRETY OF THE MESSAGE BY U.S. MAIL. PLEASE BE FURTHER ADVISED THAT REDISCLOSURE OF MENTAL
HEALTH RECORDS WITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT IS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN BY THE ILLINOIS MENTAL
HEALTH CONFIDENTIALITY CODE.

A twelve year boy from a small town in Oklahoma argued with his father and stepmother. He was frustrated to the point that he decided that his best option was to leave home for a few hours to cool down. It was raining that day and the boy decided to get into the back of a tractor trailer for warmth and shelter.

It was not until hours later when he awoke from a nap that he realized that the truck was no longer in his hometown in Oklahoma. The truck had stopped a local fast food establishment and the boy snuck out. He ordered some food at the restaurant and the personnel there called the local police department based on the appearance of the boy.

OMNI Youth Services was contacted by the local police department to assist in the provision of services to this runaway boy. The counselor from OMNI Youth Services met with a police officer and the boy to assess the needs of the situation. After contacting both the boy's stepmother and father several times in addition to speaking with the boy himself, it was determined that the home environment was safe and the boy was not in danger of abuse. The counselor from OMNI Youth Services processed the boy's frustrations with him and determined with him some alternative ways he can deal with his feelings in the future.

The counselor worked for several hours in collaboration with the parents, police, and a local emergency shelter to develop a safety plan for the boy. The boy's father immediately made arrangements to take the first morning flight in order to pick up his son. OMNI Youth Services arranged placement at a shelter and transported the boy, taking care of final transition needs.

Communication between OMNI Youth Services, the local shelter, and the boy's parents took place throughout the next day until the boy was picked up from the shelter by his father. The counselor contacted the family on two more occasions upon the boy's return home to assure that the return had been successful. In addition, the counselor offered to locate an agency within the family's community with which they could engage in family counseling. The family indicated that they had already arranged counseling with their local church.

Several weeks after the boy's successful return home, the counselor from OMNI Youth Services received a letter from the boy. It read: "We didn't know each other very long but you're pretty cool. And thanks for getting me a place to stay the night. And thanks for the game of war. And probably see you again it will be when I am an adult on vacation. Thanks a lot."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

C. Gary Londoni

BOARD OFFICERS

Charles Childress

Lisley Jones

VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Weisner

SECRETARY

James Newman

TREASURER

CHAIRPERSONS

Even Bowen

PROGRAMS

Dany

YOUTH

Peggy Kucanstein

FUNDRAISING

Cynthia Ota

SPECIAL PROJECTS

MEMBERS

Christina Anderson

Mary Carol Andy

Bethann Bachrach

James

Linda Curton

Vicky Bullock

Melody Melcher

Megan Klein

Shirley King

Brian Kowczal

Lakaysha McCoy

Sally Panagiotelli

Blythe Schaffer

Dorothy Stroud

Mallory Sutton

Paula Ten

Deborah Wilson

EX OFFICIO

David Sheridan

Betsy K. Tucker

HONORARY

John Bingham

Mel Baker

Edith Goodman

Evelyn Baker

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

4343 Lincoln Highway

Suite 348

Marengo, IL 60443

767-3781

411 W. Calumet

Aurora, IL 60506

234 Blackhawk Drive

Park Forest, IL 60466

115 S. Grove, Suite 283

Elgin, IL 60120

233 W. Joe Orr Road

Chicago Heights, IL 60411

140 E. Jefferson

Joliet, IL 60431

285 N. Schuyler Ave.

Mantoloking, IL 60901

15020 S. Cicero Ave.

Oak Forest, IL 60453

14424 Weymouth

Kildeer, IL 60127

7785 S. Cottage Grove

Chicago, IL 60619

1526 Ohio Blvd.

Chicago Heights, IL 60411

1644 Vincennes

Chicago Heights, IL 60411

3600 W. Ogden

Chicago, IL 60623

23485 S. Western Ave.

Park Forest, IL

AUNT MARTHA'S

YOUTH SERVICE CENTER, INC.

October 7, 1999

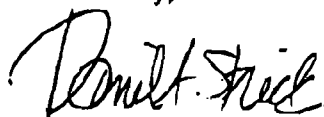
Della Hughes
Executive Director
National Network for Youth
1319 F. Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Ms. Hughes:

At the request of Denis Murstein, Administrative Director of the Youth Network Council, Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center is pleased to provide you with success stories of two youth formerly in our care who were served by programs funded through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at (708) 747-2701.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Strick
General Manager

**Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center, Inc.
4343 Lincoln Highway, Suite 340
Matteson, IL 60443
(708) 747-2701**

Transition to Independence Project and Shelter (T.I.P.S.)

Tony, a 21-year-old male, had spent the last seven years living happily in a foster home in Chicago's Marquette Park neighborhood. But now that he was 21 and legally an adult, it was time for the State of Illinois to "emancipate" Tony. This left Tony with no home of his own and no job. Tony had been through a lot in his life. His father died before he was old enough to remember him, and his mother suffered a mental and physical deterioration that left her unable to care for Tony and his younger brother.

Tony was referred to Aunt Martha's T.I.P.S. program which is a full-service program, providing transitional living facilities for homeless youth, ages 17-21, for up to 12 months. The program prepares clients to enjoy a stable, productive and self-supporting lifestyle. After a six-month stay at T.I.P.S., Tony successfully transitioned to Aunt Martha's Supportive Living Program, which gave him the opportunity to live in an apartment and hone key life skills, such as money, time and household management. Tony, now 22, shares a South Side Chicago apartment with his younger brother. Come the fall of 2000, his dream of following in his high school history teacher's footsteps will begin when he receives his bachelor of arts degree in History and Secondary Education from Chicago State University. Tony is currently employed by a contract security services and is looking forward to sharing his advice and life experiences with other young residents of T.I.P.S., where he will soon serve as a peer educator.

Basic Center/Street Outreach

Melissa, a 17-year-old female from a southern suburb of Chicago, was referred to Aunt Martha's Basic Center/Street Outreach program by the high school she was attending. The school reported that Melissa was displaying disruptive behavior and had a negative attitude. It was discovered that Melissa's parents were both alcoholics and abusive. Melissa suffered from co-dependency and low self-esteem. She participated in individual counseling at Aunt Martha's. Family counseling was offered, but refused by Melissa's parents. During individual counseling sessions, Melissa's counselor helped her to focus on academic issues, anger management and improvement of her low self-esteem.

Melissa is now 19 years old. Having successfully completing high school, she now attends a local community college where she is pursuing a degree in psychology. Although she still lives at home with her parents, she realizes that she is not at fault for their problems and cannot "fix" their situation. Melissa is now equipped to handle personal dilemmas and continues to work toward a better future for herself.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. fax	cover sheet, Della Hughes to Deanne Benos (partial) (1 page)	10/07/1999	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Deanne Benos (Subject File)
OA/Box Number: 21323

FOLDER TITLE:

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Reauthorization, 1998

2012-0726-S
kc904

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

[001]

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH

To: *Deanne Berro*
Agency:
FAX Number: *456-5568*

From: *Della Hughes*
Date: *10/7/99*
Pages: *3*

Please call *X3106* at (202) 783-7949 if there are any questions regarding this fax.

Miriam Polin
Cell Phone
P6(b)(6)
P6(b)(6)
P6(b)(6)

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH
1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401
Washington, DC 20004



1111 WEST LAKE COOK ROAD
BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS 60089
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

PHONE#: 847-537-8871

FAX#: 847-541-0228

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 7 OCTOBER 1999

TO: DEELA HUGHES

FROM: J.H. WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 2

COMMENTS:

Denis Murnstein of the Chicago Youth Network Council contacted
our organization regarding a successful situation that we
handled under the Runaway & Homeless Act. Attached is an
article regarding a situation that one of our counselors worked
with.

**PLEASE ADVISE IF ALL PAGES
ARE NOT RECEIVED**

THIS CORRESPONDENCE WAS SENT BY ELECTRONIC FAX TRANSMISSION. THE MESSAGE MAY CONTAIN
CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED INFORMATION. PROTECTED FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER FEDERAL AND/OR
STATE LAW. IT IS INTENDED FOR THE USE OF THE PARTY TO WHOM IT IS ADDRESSED ONLY. IN THE EVENT
SOME OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY RECEIVES THE MESSAGE, SAID RECIPIENT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY
DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR DUPLICATION OF THE MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED. IN THE EVENT THE
MESSAGE IS RECEIVED BY A PERSON OR ENTITY OTHER THAN THE SPECIFIED RECIPIENT OR THE
RECIPIENT'S AGENT, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE, COLLECT, AND RETURN THE
ENTIRETY OF THE MESSAGE BY U.S. MAIL. PLEASE BE FURTHER ADVISED THAT REDISCLOSURE OF MENTAL
HEALTH RECORDS WITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT IS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN BY THE ILLINOIS MENTAL
HEALTH CONFIDENTIALITY CODE.

A twelve year boy from a small town in Oklahoma argued with his father and stepmother. He was frustrated to the point that he decided that his best option was to leave home for a few hours to cool down. It was raining that day and the boy decided to get into the back of a tractor trailer for warmth and shelter.

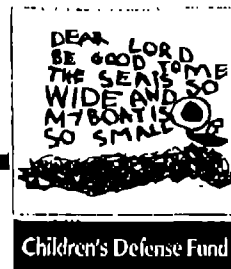
It was not until hours later when he awoke from a nap that he realized that the truck was no longer in his hometown in Oklahoma. The truck had stopped a local fast food establishment and the boy snuck out. He ordered some food at the restaurant and the personnel there called the local police department based on the appearance of the boy.

OMNI Youth Services was contacted by the local police department to assist in the provision of services to this runaway boy. The counselor from OMNI Youth Services met with a police officer and the boy to assess the needs of the situation. After contacting both the boy's stepmother and father several times in addition to speaking with the boy himself, it was determined that the home environment was safe and the boy was not in danger of abuse. The counselor from OMNI Youth Services processed the boy's frustrations with him and determined with him some alternative ways he can deal with his feelings in the future.

The counselor worked for several hours in collaboration with the parents, police, and a local emergency shelter to develop a safety plan for the boy. The boy's father immediately made arrangements to take the first morning flight in order to pick up his son. OMNI Youth Services arranged placement at a shelter and transported the boy, taking care of final transition needs.

Communication between OMNI Youth Services, the local shelter, and the boy's parents took place throughout the next day until the boy was picked up from the shelter by his father. The counselor contacted the family on two more occasions upon the boy's return home to assure that the return had been successful. In addition, the counselor offered to locate an agency within the family's community with which they could engage in family counseling. The family indicated that they had already arranged counseling with their local church.

Several weeks after the boy's successful return home, the counselor from OMNI Youth Services received a letter from the boy. It read: "We didn't know each other very long but you're pretty cool. And thanks for getting me a place to stay the night. And thanks for the game of war. And probably see you again it will be when I am an adult on vacation. Thanks a lot."



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

To: Deanne Benos

Organization: The White House DPC

City/State: _____

FAX number: _____

From: Lil Ryan

CDF dept.: _____

FAX number transmitted from: _____

If you have a transmittal/receiving problem, please contact me
at (202) 662-_____.

Date: _____ Time: _____

Number of pages sent (including this cover sheet): 3

Comments: Deanne - These folks have
apparently talked to Leanne also,
we support their request, and
will help out in any way we
can! Thanks.

Children's Defense Fund 2000 Annual National Conference

March 25 - 28, 2000
The Hilton New York
& Towers
New York, NY

Look for more
information to come
in early fall!

[www.childrensdefense.org/
conference](http://www.childrensdefense.org/conference)

or call our
conference hotline
1-800-CDF-1200

LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND®

(For 4 yrs. next
most reauthorization
b/c part of OS Bill.)

[
- Hatch / Leahy
- Scott

- 25th year anniversary of Act.
* - Natl Runaway Switchboard is in Chicago (headquartered)
(minimum of 15 years.)

* **Lora Thomas**
P 773/880-9860

→ A. Declaring "Runaway Prevention Week" in November
① Planning to release to newspapers

- 1,234 kids leave home
every day. (CDF).
Programs prov. alternatives
to kids to crime and drug.

* 80% reunification rate
of kids in
contact
with program

☆ POPOSE - Two-fold
A. To reunite families.

B. For young people who
can't go back home -
helping find alternate living
arrangements, Somewhere
to go finish school, learn
job skills, go to college.
C. Third program is "Street outreach"
part of 1994 VAWA new addition
prov. for community-based
agencies to get out of
bondage reachout
to kids on
street.

Ant. month's has
good effectiveness
data
on new prog.
Gary Lafont
708/747-2701

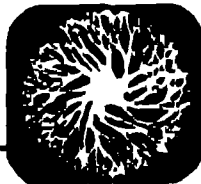
Good state - on
Family Youth Service Bureau
(ACYF)

Gilda Lambert, Associate Com
P 205/876 205-8763

- No data system in
place until only
a few years ago.

Sen. Brock Bayh -
Washed
Original

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH



1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401

Washington, DC 20004-1106

202.783.7949

202.783.7955 Fax

<http://www.NN4Youth.org>e-mail: NN4Youth@Worldnet.att.net

October 6, 1999

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the hundreds of non-profit youth-serving organizations, youth workers and young people from around the nation who constitute the membership of the National Network for Youth, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your support of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as evidenced by your FY 2000 budget proposal for increased funding for the Transitional Living Program. In light of the legislation's importance to the children and youth of the United States of America, I hope that you will consider holding a signing ceremony for the reauthorization of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act which passed in the House in late May and then, in identical form, passed in the Senate on September 28.

For twenty-five years, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs have supported community-based efforts that constitute a vital life-line to young people in high-risk situations all over the country. As you know, the RHYA includes three major grant programs: the Basic Center Program, which provides grants to support temporary shelter for youth (under age 18) and counseling for youth and their families, in order to assist them in a time of crisis; the Transitional Living Program, which provides grants to support longer-term (up to 18 months) shelter as well as independent living services to youth (age 16-21) who are unable to return home safely, in order to promote their successful transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency; and the Street Outreach Program, which provides grants to support street-based outreach and education to runaway, homeless and street youth who have been sexually abused or are at risk of sexual abuse, in order to connect these most vulnerable youth with services and a chance for a safe and healthy future.

The following are a few key points about runaway and homeless youth and the programs which provide them critical supports and opportunities which you may consider as you decide whether or not to hold a signing ceremony for this legislation:

- Runaway and homeless youth are not running TO anything; they're running FROM homes where they have experienced extreme parental neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse, or other situations like family violence or parental alcoholism or substance abuse. Some of these youth have been failed by the child welfare system, and perceive the streets as preferable to endless shuffling from one foster home or group home to another.

- Runaway and homeless youth face numerous dangers on the streets: lack of education, health care and job training opportunities; increased risk of substance abuse, depression, early pregnancy, and HIV infection; and the dangers of physical and sexual assault from adults who prey on these young people.
- The federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs support cost-effective community-based services for these youth, to protect them from the harms of life on the streets and either reunify them safely with family or find alternative appropriate placements.

Because runaway and homeless youth often cross state lines, there is a uniquely federal interest in addressing the needs of these youth. For a quarter of a century, the federal RHYA programs have helped to meet the needs of these young people, prevent their involvement in criminal activity, and provide them with a doorway to a safe and productive future.

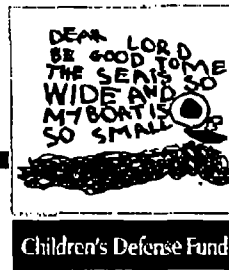
Thank you for your hard work in reauthorizing these vital programs for our nation's most vulnerable youth.

Sincerely,

Della M. Hughes
Della M. Hughes
Executive Director

Miriam A. Rollin
Miriam A. Rollin
Director of Public Policy

or
Cassandra



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

To: Deanne Benos

Organization: White House

City/State: _____

FAX number: _____

From: Liz Ryan

CDF dept.: _____

FAX number transmitted from: _____

If you have a transmittal/receiving problem, please contact me
at (202) 662- 3586.

Date: 10/6/99 Time: _____

Number of pages sent (including this cover sheet): 4

Comments: Here's the bill states
and summary (R144A & during/
Exploited Children) T'll fax
more advocacy stuff also.

Children's Defense Fund 2000 Annual National Conference

March 25 - 28, 2000
The Hilton New York
& Towers
New York, NY

Look for more
information to come
in early fall!

[www.childrensdefense.org/
conference](http://www.childrensdefense.org/conference)

or call our
conference hotline
1-800-CDF-1200

LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND®

Bill Summary & Status for the 106th Congress**Item 1 of 3871**

PREVIOUS BILL | NEXT BILL
PREVIOUS BILL:STATUS | NEXT BILL:STATUS
NEW SEARCH | HOME | HELP | ABOUT STATUS

* **S.249** (Major Legislation)
SPONSOR: Sen Hatch, Orrin G. (introduced 01/19/99)

RELATED BILLS: H.R.905

STATUS: Detailed Legislative Status

Senate Actions

Jan 19, 99:

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mar 4, 99:

Committee on Judiciary. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

Mar 4, 99:

Committee on Judiciary. Reported to Senate by Senator Hatch with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.

Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 27.

Apr 19, 99:

Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.

Apr 20, 99:

Message on Senate action sent to the House.

Sep 29, 99:

Message on Senate action sent to the House.

House Actions

Apr 20, 99:

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

May 25, 99:

Considered under suspension of the rules.

Considered as unfinished business.

On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 414 - 1 (Roll no. 148).

Conference Actions

May 27, 99:

Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendment to Senate bill.

Sep 28, 99:

Senate agreed to the House amendment by Unanimous Consent.

Executive Actions

* **Sep 28, 99:**

Cleared for White House.

NONE

COSPONSORS(7):

Sen DeWine, Michael - 01/19/99 Sen Grams, Rod - 02/12/99
Sen Ashcroft, John - 03/11/99 Sen Abraham, Spencer - 03/15/99
Sen Biden, Joseph R., Jr. - 03/15/99 Sen Robb, Charles S. - 04/15/99
Sen Leahy, Patrick J. - 09/08/99

SUMMARY:

* (REVISED AS OF 05/25/99 -- Passed House, amended)

→ Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act - Amends the Missing Children's Assistance Act to direct the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to annually make a grant to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which shall be used to: (1) operate a national 24-hour toll-free telephone line by which individuals may report information regarding the location of any missing child, or other child age 13 or younger whose whereabouts are unknown to such child's legal custodian, and request information pertaining to procedures necessary to reunite such child with the child's legal custodian; (2) coordinate the operation of such telephone line with the operation of the national communications system referred to in the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act; (3) operate the official national resource center and information clearinghouse for missing and exploited children; (4) provide to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals, information regarding free or low-cost legal, restaurant, lodging and transportation services that are available for the benefit of missing and exploited children and their families, and the existence and nature of programs being carried out by Federal agencies to assist missing and exploited children and their families; (5) coordinate public and private programs that locate, recover, or reunite missing children with their families; (6) disseminate, on a national basis, information relating to innovative and model programs, services, and legislation that benefit missing and exploited children; (7) provide technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies, State and local governments, elements of the criminal justice system, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases involving missing and exploited children; and (8) provide assistance to families and law enforcement agencies in locating and recovering missing and exploited children, both nationally and internationally. Authorizes appropriations through FY 2003.

Requires the Administrator, either by making grants to or entering into contracts with public or nonprofit private agencies, to: (1) periodically conduct national incidence studies to determine for a given year the actual number of children reported missing each year, abducted by strangers, kidnaped by parents, and recovered each year; and (2) provide to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals information to facilitate the lawful use of school records and birth certificates to identify and locate missing children.

Authorizes the Administrator to make grants to and enter contracts with the Center for specified purposes, such as for research, demonstration projects, or service programs designed to assist in the location and return of missing children. (Currently, such grants or contracts may be made with only public or nonprofit private organizations, or combinations thereof.) Authorizes appropriations through FY 2003.

→ (Sec. 3) Amends the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (the Act) to: (1) include findings that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to assist in the development of an accurate national reporting system on runaway and homeless youth and that services for such youth are needed in urban, suburban, and rural areas; (2) authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to public and

nonprofit private entities to establish and operate local centers to provide services for such youth and their families; (3) require a grant applicant, to be eligible for assistance, to include assurances that the applicant shall submit an annual report that includes, with respect to the year for which the report is submitted, statistical summaries describing the number and the characteristics of such youth and youth at risk of family separation who participated in the project and the services provided to such youth by the project; and (4) modify the services that applicants must plan to provide in order to use grant money for street-based, home-based, and drug abuse education and prevention services.

Revises Act provisions regarding: (1) approval of applications to direct the Secretary to consider the geographical distribution in the State of the proposed services and which areas of the State have the greatest need for such services, and to give priority to eligible applicants who have demonstrated experience in providing services to runaway and homeless youth and who request grants of less than \$200,000; (2) authority for the transitional living grant program to repeal definitions of "homeless youth" and "transitional living youth project"; (3) eligibility for assistance by stating that the annual report submitted by grant applicants to the Secretary must include statistical summaries describing the number and characteristics of the services provided to the homeless youth; (4) coordination by the Secretary, in conjunction with the Attorney General, of the activities of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to matters relating to the health, education, employment, and housing of runaway and homeless youth; and (5) authority to make grants for research, demonstration, and service projects to repeal references to home-based and street based services from the research and demonstration projects.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) conduct a study of a representative sample of runaways to determine the percentage who leave home because of sexual abuse; and (2) report to Congress.

Repeals provisions of the Act directing that assistance to potential grantees include information on the need for the establishment of additional runaway and homeless youth centers in the geographical area identified by the potential grantee involved.

Amends the Act to require the Secretary, by April 1, 2000, and biennially thereafter, to submit to specified congressional committees a report on the status, activities, and accomplishments of entities that receive grants under the Act. Lists information that must be included in the report. Requires the Secretary to include summaries of the Secretary's evaluations of grantees and descriptions of the qualifications and training of the individuals administering the evaluations.

Authorizes appropriations under such Act through FY 2003. Sets forth the division of appropriations among the programs.

Authorizes the Secretary to make grants to nonprofit private agencies to provide street-based services to runaway and homeless, and street youth, who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, prostitution, or sexual exploitation. Directs the Secretary to give priority to nonprofit private agencies that have experience in providing services to runaway and homeless, and street youth.

Authorizes appropriations for FY 2000 through 2003.

Authorizes the Secretary to: (1) announce the availability of funds for grants under two or more of such parts; and (2) review applications for grants under two or more of such parts in a single, consolidated application review process.

(Sec. 4) Directs the Secretary of Education to enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study regarding the antecedents of school violence in urban, suburban, and rural schools. Sets forth reporting requirements. Makes specified funds available to carry out this section.



NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH

To: *Deanne Benos*
Agency:
FAX Number: *456-7028*

From: *Della Hughes*
Date: *10/7/99*
Pages: *12*

Please call *x3106* at (202) 783-7949 if there are any questions regarding this fax.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH
1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401
Washington, DC 20004



FORMERLY
KNOWN AS THE
NATIONAL
NETWORK OF
RUNAWAY &
YOUTH SERVICES

SPECIAL EDITION - WINTER 1999

NETWORK NEWS

INSIDE

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH

THE FIRST
CONGRESSIONAL
SPONSORS AND
CO-SPONSORS OF
THE RUNAWAY
YOUTH ACT
PAGE 2



Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) — 25th Anniversary

By Della M. Hughes, Executive Director

LEGISLATIVE EVENTS
IN THE HISTORY OF
THE RUNAWAY
AND HOMELESS
YOUTH ACT
PAGE 3

Digging back through files and talking with countless people to compile a history of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) has been a joyous challenge. While milestones of the past decade are relatively well-documented and memories a bit fresher, finding and sorting out the early catalytic events and the people leading them have required more ingenuity and perseverance. We are

assembling several types of data — newspaper and magazine articles, copies of old organizational documents, and, most interestingly, first-hand stories. No matter with whom we've spoken, the feelings run high — the pride that people feel in having been associated with this legislation, with the young people and their families — is deep and full of the power that comes from success born out of a struggle for

justice. We owe great thanks to the early pioneers and champions who acted with courage and compassion.

The stories included in this issue exemplify the ability of dedicated, ingenious youth workers to overcome formidable odds to establish safe places for runaway and homeless youth. They also note the extraordinary responsiveness of the agencies in addressing the array of

continued on page 3

THE NATIONAL
RUNAWAY
SWITCHBOARD:
THEN AND NOW
PAGE 5

RHYA STORIES
FROM THE FIELD
PAGE 6-8

THE FIRST
PROGRAMS TO
RECEIVE
DEMONSTRATION
CONTRACT
AWARDS FOR
RUNAWAY YOUTH,
1974
PAGE 9

THE NATIONAL
GRANTEES UNDER
THE RUNAWAY
YOUTH ACT,
1976
PAGE 10

EXCEPTIONAL YEAR
FOR NATIONAL
NETWORK PUBLIC
POLICY TEAM
PAGE 11

Our Nation's First Runaway Shelter — Huckleberry House, San Francisco, California Founded 1967

In 1967, over 100,000 young people gravitated to San Francisco to experience the Summer of Love, and very few of them had made hotel reservations. Many new arrivals were teenage runaways who found that wearing flowers in their hair didn't guarantee them a safe place to stay.

In response to this need, Huckleberry House — then known as Huckleberry's for Runaways — opened on June 18, 1967 at One Broderick in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury District. It was the nation's first teen runaway shelter,

and the place where a new youth advocacy movement was born with a simple philosophy: Help kids help themselves.

Under the direction of the founder, Reverend Edward Larry Beggs, Huckleberry House served a total of 211 youth in crisis in its first three months of operation, and some officials in the city became wary. On October 2, 1967, the police staged a midnight raid and arrested everyone in the house. Young clients were charged with juvenile delinquency and staff with "contributing to the delinquency of minors." With the

help of the Glide Foundation, Huckleberry House was given pro-bono representation by a young city assemblyman named Willie Brown. Two months later, the charges were dropped, but Brown continued his support. He introduced and helped pass legislation to permit emergency youth facilities to operate in California for short-term stays by minors in crisis. Today, Brown is the mayor of San Francisco.

As time passed, Huckleberry House incorporated under the name Youth Advocates, Inc. and

continued on page 6

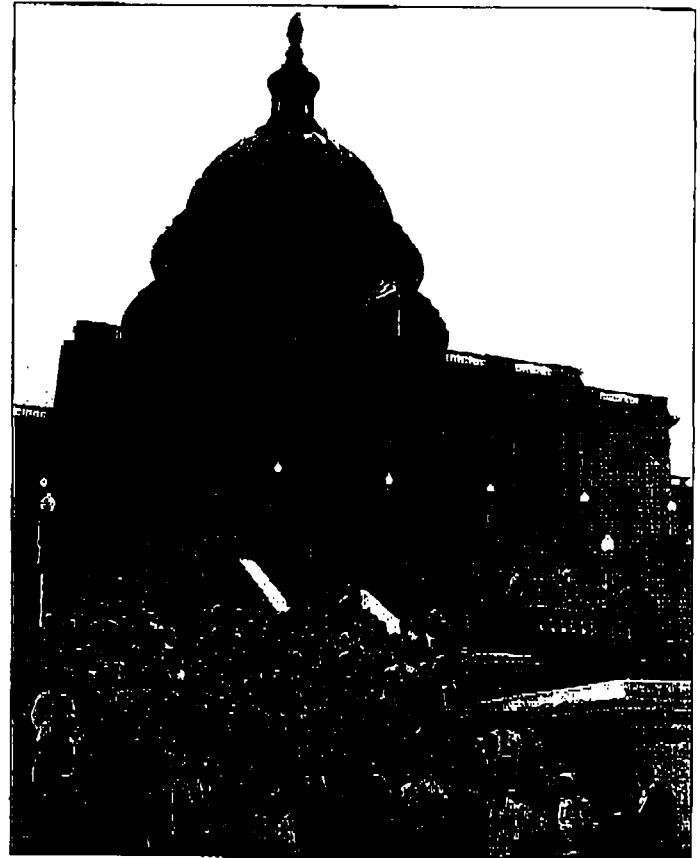
The First Congressional Sponsors and Co-Sponsors of the Runaway Youth Act, 1974

United States Senator Birch Bayh opened the first congressional hearings on the problems of runaway youth in 1972 and shortly thereafter introduced the Runaway Youth Act. The Runaway Youth Act, Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), was passed by Congress in late July 1974, and was signed into law (P.L. 93-415) by President Gerald R. Ford on September 7, 1974.

CONGRESSIONAL SPONSORS OF THE RUNAWAY YOUTH ACT, TITLE III OF THE JJDP, 1974

The original sponsor and leading advocate of the JJDP and the Runaway Youth Act in the Senate was Senator Birch Bayh, Ind. Twenty-four Senators co-sponsored the legislation:

- Senator Marlow Cook, Ky.
- Senator Frank Church, Idaho
- Senator Hubert Humphrey, Md.
- Senator Gale McGee, Wyo.
- Senator John Pastore, R.I.
- Senator Abraham Ribicoff, Conn.
- Senator James Abourezk, S.D.
- Senator Joseph Montoya, N.M.
- Senator William Brock, Tenn.
- Senator Frank Moss, Utah
- Senator Harrison Williams, N.J.
- Senator Quentin Burdick, N.D.
- Senator Alan Bible, Nev.
- Senator Maurice Gravel, Alaska
- Senator Edward Kennedy, Mass.
- Senator Walter Mondale, Minn.
- Senator Jennings Randolph, W.Va.
- Senator Philip Hart, Mich.
- Senator Clifford Case, N.J.
- Senator Daniel Inouye, Hawaii
- Senator George McGovern, S.D.
- Senator Alan Cranston, Calif.
- Senator Charles Mathias, Md.
- Senator John Tunney, Calif.



In the United States House of Representatives, Representative Augustus Hawkins, Calif. introduced the House JJDP companion bill which included the Runaway Youth Act. Eight House members co-sponsored the legislation:

- Representative Carl Perkins, Ky.
- Representative Jaime Benitez, Puerto Rico
- Representative William Clay, Mo.
- Representative Patsy Mink, Hawaii
- Representative Alphonzo Bell, Calif.
- Representative Shirley Chisholm, N.Y.
- Representative Marvin Esch, Mich.
- Representative William Steiger, Wis.

Network News is a quarterly publication of the National Network for Youth. A one-year subscription is available free to members. Non-members can obtain a one-year subscription for \$30. Address inquiries to: Publications Department, National Network for Youth, 1319 F Street, N.W., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20004; telephone: (202) 783-7949; fax: (202) 783-7955. Reproduction without written permission is prohibited. Points of view or opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Network for Youth. ©Copyright 1999 by the National Network for Youth. All rights reserved.

Legislative Events in the History of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

1972 Senator Birch Bayh, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency, opens the first Congressional hearings on the problems of runaway youth.

1973 Senator Birch Bayh introduces S. 645, the Runaway Youth Act.

1974 The Runaway Youth Act is passed by Congress as part of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974 and signed into law (P.L. 93-415) by President Gerald R. Ford.

1977 The Juvenile Justice Amendments of 1977 are passed by Congress and signed into law (P.L. 95-115) by President Jimmy Carter, extending Basic Center services to "otherwise homeless youth" between the ages of 16 and 21. These Amendments also authorized support for coordinated networks, known today as the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) Training and Technical Assistance Providers.

1980 The title "Runaway Youth Act" is changed to the "Runaway and Homeless Youth Act."

1988 Congress creates the Transitional Living Program for homeless youth to assist older youth in making the transition to independent living.

1988 Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, creating the Drug Abuse Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth.

1992 Congress reauthorized the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act through 1996.

1994 Congress authorized the "Education and Prevention Grants to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless and Street Youth" (known as the Street Outreach Program). This program was authorized in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and an amendment to RHYA.

THE STORIES INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE EXEMPLIFY THE ABILITY OF DEDICATED, INGENIOUS YOUTH WORKERS TO OVERCOME FORMIDABLE ODDS TO ESTABLISH SAFE PLACES FOR RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH. THEY ALSO NOTE THE EXTRAORDINARY RESPONSIVENESS OF THE AGENCIES IN ADDRESSING THE ARRAY OF ISSUES THESE YOUNG PEOPLE FACE.

continued from page 1

issues these young people face.

From family to school, work, housing, health, mental health, law, and substance abuse — more agencies have leveraged funding to create a comprehensive array of programs in the agency or through agreements with others. In each case, they have garnered strong community support and are a valued resource.

The cause that moved us to act more than 25 years ago demands our allegiance now and into the next millennium. While the RHYA has enjoyed strong bipartisan

support over the years, the trend in local, state and federal legislation toward secure detention of youth who have run away is eroding some of its critical underpinnings. Additionally, the intense politics surrounding reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act are further weakening basic rights and protections. So, as we celebrate 25 years of incredible successes, the next 25 years beckon our will to act — to move to a greater vision of what must be accomplished and our commitment to achieve it.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION,

CONTACT
HUCKLEBERRY

YOUTH
PROGRAMS,
3310 GEARY

BOULEVARD,
SAN

FRANCISCO,
CA 94118;

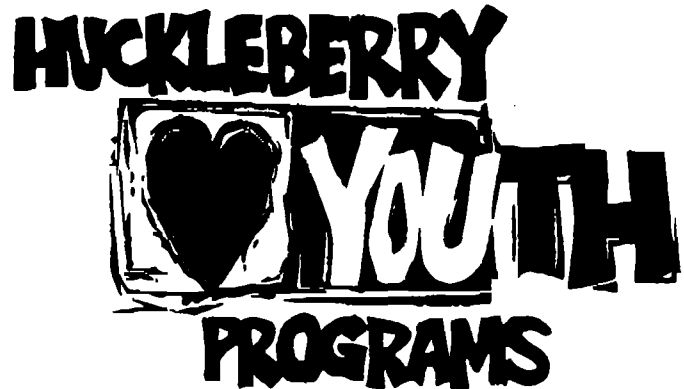
PHONE (415)
668-2622.

What Young People Have to Say About Huckleberry Youth Programs

"What I remember most about my time at Huckleberry House when I was 14, is that the staff treated me with respect and didn't 'look down' on me. I had run away from home, because my Mom and I were having big trouble. After a few nights in the BART stations, I decided to check out this place called Huckleberry House that my friends had told me about. The good news is that the people there really helped my Mom and me work things out. Later I became a Peer Health Educator at Cole Street Youth Clinic and worked with other young people who needed help. I'm 23 now, have two kids of my own, and I'm a counselor at Westside Mental Health." — Cecily

"To get in my gang in Los Angeles, I had to steal from and beat up other kids. I was scared, but I did it. In eighth grade, I was walking

down the street with my friend and a rival gang member shot him. My Mom sent me up here because that gang was looking for me too. When I got here, it was the same thing all over again. To belong, you needed a gang. I found out about Huckleberry Youth Program's Montecito Teen Health Program. Last August, I began working as a Peer Health Educator. Maybe I've found a different kind of gang, a gang that helps other kids stay out of trouble." — Victor



"When I was 14 and 'hanging around,' I met one of the Cole Street Peer Health Educators who lived in my neighborhood. She invited me to join her class at the Mission Girls' YWCA. While I learned about my body and how to set limits, what I remember the most is how I grew in my ability to believe in myself and make good choices. Today, six years later, I'm working with 6-20 year-old children in the tutoring and summer program at the Mission Girls' YWCA. I like kids, and I like teaching. I am now a student of literature and someday hope to write a novel. Next fall, I'm enrolling at University of California at Santa Cruz." — Erika

"When I was 15, drugs, car jacking, knives and street gangs were my life. I got in big trouble with the cops. The judge gave me Community Service and Probation. At first, I thought I'd just put in my time at the Huckleberry Youth Program's Montecito Program, but it didn't work out that way. One of the people there really helped me to see that I was messing up my life, and I didn't have to. I'm different now. I'm in school, passing my classes, and, as a Peer Health Educator, helping other kids." — Ignacio



Huckleberry House, San Francisco, Calif.

The National Runaway Switchboard: Then and Now

The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) opened its doors in 1971 to fill a need for comprehensive counseling and crisis intervention services for young people at risk in Chicago. With financial assistance from the Playboy Foundation, a consortium of youth-serving agencies collaborated to establish the NRS. NRS was conceived as a centralized organization with around-the-clock availability and service, expertise in youth-related issues, and specialization as a central clearinghouse of information on existing services for young people.

THEN

The Office of Youth Development has awarded \$100,000 to Metro Help, a Chicago-based youth organization, for the establishment of a National Runaway Hotline. Metro Help already operates a local hotline. The national hotline will be in operation on a six-month demonstration basis. The purpose of the hotline will be to relay messages between runaways and their

parents, and to provide referrals for runaways in need of help.

(Reprinted from Youth Alternatives, a publication of the National Youth Alternatives Project, July 1974)

During the 1974 demonstration grant period, over 11,000 calls were received.

NOW

The NRS has operated 24 hours a day, 365 days a year since 1974, helping and supporting hundreds of thousands of callers, including the 108,682 calls received during 1998. The NRS is a non-for-profit voluntary organization whose mission is to provide crisis intervention and referrals for youth through national and local telephone switchboards, as well as advocacy and educational services on behalf of young people. In 1999, the NRS will operate with a 15-member staff, 130 volunteers, and an annual budget of \$1.157 million.



1999 — 25th Anniversary of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)

The National Network for Youth is collecting stories about how the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) has impacted your program, young people, your agency, or your community. Please share your most meaningful memory with us.

Your Name		Agency	
Address		City	State Zip
Phone	Fax	E-mail	

(attach a separate sheet if necessary)

SEND YOUR
STORIES TO:
RHYA STOI
NATIONAL
NETWORK F
YOUTH,
1319 F
STREET, NV
SUITE 401,
WASHINGTON
DC, 2000
FAX 202-78
7955.

RHYA STORIES FROM THE FIELD

FOR MORE
INFORMATION,

CONTACT

VOYAGE

HOUSE, 1431

LOMBARD

STREET,

PHILADELPHIA,

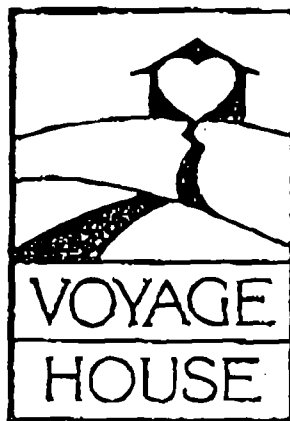
PA 19146;

PHONE (215)

545-2910.

Voyage House, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Founded 1971

Voyage House first opened its doors in 1971 as a storefront, drop-in center for street youth, primarily runaways, congregating in the Rittenhouse Square area of Center City, Philadelphia. The organizer and original director was an Episcopal priest, Jim Latrell, who prompted a group of Center City and suburban churches to join together and form Voyage House. Its largely volunteer staff soon realized that shelter and counseling were insufficient to meet the wide-ranging needs of the youth who came to the center. The staff began developing contacts in the community for a number of services including referrals; a tutoring program for those youth whose school attendance was disrupted while they were gone from home; a group home for youth who were homeless or could not return home; and the use of outside professionals for training staff and community-organizing projects to resolve youth problems through neighborhood self-help efforts. Importantly, the volunteers themselves became involved by offering their homes as temporary shelter for young runaways, and Voyage House continues today as a host home runaway program. By 1975, Voyage House included among its projects a state-licensed alternative high school, two group homes, and a short-term shelter under contract with the Philadelphia Department of Welfare. These projects, in addition to the Counseling Center's services to youth and families in crisis, enabled Voyage House to deliver a comprehensive program of preventive services, crisis intervention services, and aftercare.



Over the years, Voyage House's central office and counseling center have shifted location several times but have always remained within a few blocks of the original location. Until December 1978, the administrative staff of Voyage House was housed in the office of the

Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. Current staff and board members say that the Diocese, throughout Voyage House's somewhat chaotic history and painful growth, provided the emotional support without which it might not have survived.

Today's staff describe Voyage House's earlier years as the "underground years," characterized by difficulties with traditional social service agencies and the police. Out of this somewhat turbulent history, however, has developed a solid professional program. The Philadelphia community, which once believed Voyage House was "harboring runaways," now views Voyage House as a resource. As one staff member commented, "We have surfaced and are no longer underground."

continued from page 1

the program expanded to serve the needs of local troubled youth, as well as runaways from across the country. Family counseling and reunification services became an integral part of the program.

In 1974, the agency played an instrumental role in the passage of the Runaway Youth Act, and Huckleberry House served as a model for hundreds of runaway shelters throughout the United States.

During these early years the staff noticed that more and more Huckleberry House kids were coming from Marin County, which lacked a teen shelter. In 1974, Youth Advocates opened Nine Grove Lane Shelter to meet that need. As the HIV epidemic began to spread among youth, adolescent

health care became a high priority. As a result, the Cole Street Youth Clinic was opened in the Haight-Ashbury District in 1988. Shortly thereafter, it became a nation-wide model for HIV education and health services, offering an aggressive peer-based approach. In 1991, San Rafael's Marin Prevention and Education Program was opened (now the Huckleberry Teen Health Program).

Over the course of the past 30 years, Huckleberry Youth Programs (formerly Youth Advocates, Inc.) has served over 30,000 at-risk youth and their families, through shelter support programs and health services.

Huckleberry House, Columbus, Ohio Founded 1970

By Roger Minner, Associate Director

We opened the doors at Huckleberry House in Columbus, Ohio, on November 16, 1970, to provide comprehensive crisis services to runaway and homeless adolescents and their families. Our first budget was \$30,000, even though times were lean, we managed to be there 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Like most other agencies serving this population, what we were doing was sorely needed, not provided, distrusted by many citizens, and illegal. We had a great deal of suspicion to overcome and bridges to build. Many hours were spent with community leaders and law enforcement personnel educating and convincing them that we were not aiding and abetting runaways, but rather providing an opportunity for them to get back home and stay there.

In 1974, we applied and were awarded a grant from funds allocated from the Runaway Youth Act for crisis intervention and family reconciliation services. Twenty-five years later, we still depend greatly on this funding, and it supports much more today. Over the years, we listened to the young people and families we served and learned how to improve upon and expand what we do. We learned that being able to provide follow-up services goes a long way to sustaining the family reconciliation process; we learned that using young people in key staff roles assists in quickly establishing a relationship with a youth in crisis; we learned that a crisis center is not always needed or even the best place to do crisis intervention; we learned that for some older, homeless adolescents, returning home might be

counter-productive to the family reconciliation process, and other alternatives are needed; and we learned there are hundreds of homeless young people on the streets who will never use our crisis program. Most importantly, we have maintained an individualized, youth-focused, family-centered approach where we ask "What do you need?" rather than "This is what we provide."



In response to what we learned, Huckleberry House added limited crisis follow-up services in 1976, and expanded to a full-service outpatient program in 1980. In 1989, in response to customer feedback and internal studies on effectiveness with our most challenged youth, we began an intensive home-based counseling program. We eventually converted all of our outpatient services to the home-based model.

In 1987, we began administering Project Safe Place for the Columbus and Franklin County area. Today, we have 118 Safe Place sites.

In 1989, Huckleberry House took on leadership for the county-wide Youth Outreach Program. This project was begun by the City of Columbus and United Way to provide outreach and intervention services to youth at risk for gang involvement, violence, and substance abuse. The Youth Outreach Program expanded in 1994 to include the use of a van to increase visibility and recognition. Youth Outreach also began providing Rites of Passage services to young men and women in 1995.

After providing transitional living services to select youth unable to reconcile with their families and for whom traditional service systems would not help, Huckleberry House finally received funding to develop a full-blown Transitional Living Program in 1991. Like all of our other follow-up services, we target the most challenged youth with no other options, making our program the only one of its kind in Franklin County. Our most recent service addition to the Huckleberry House continuum is RRT, or a Rapid Response Team. This service is targeted to assist other community-based agencies in ensuring that multi-challenged youth are safe and at home.

With a budget of more than \$2.5 million, we serve more than 1,000 young people and families each year. Congratulations to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act! For 25 years, it has enabled Huckleberry House and many other youth-serving organizations to pursue a mission of family reconciliation. We look forward to many more years of support.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
CONTACT
HUCKLEBERRY
HOUSE, 1421
HAMLET
STREET,
COLUMBUS,
OH 43201;
PHONE (614)
294-8097.

Florida Network of Youth and Family Services Tallahassee, Florida, Founded 1976

FOR
MORE
INFORMATION,
CONTACT
FLORIDA
NETWORK OF
YOUTH AND
FAMILY
SERVICES,
2728 PABLO
AVENUE,
TALLAHASSEE,
FL 32308;
PHONE (805)
922-4324.

Following the enactment of the 1974 Runaway Youth Act, six programs in Florida received funding: Transient Youth Center, Jacksonville (has become Youth Crisis Center); Youth Alternatives, Daytona Beach; Crosswinds, Merritt Island; Interface, Gainesville; Beach Place, Tampa; and Bayhouse, Miami (has become Switchboard).

Florida's six program directors began meeting informally. Their common interests were service to runaway kids and federal funding. After a short while, they believed a more formal relationship should be established among the Florida programs and the Florida Network was incorporated in 1976.

During the next three years, the fledgling network managed to hire a small staff and set up an office in Tampa. During this time, other non-runaway programs and individuals began to join the Network in order to support its work.

By 1980, five more programs had joined the Florida Network: Alternative Human Services, St. Petersburg; Miami Bridge, Miami; Someplace Else, Tallahassee; Derocher House, Orlando; and Focus, New Port Richey. However, in 1980, the Network faced its first crisis — Congress passed new legislation which re-wrote the federal funding formula for runaway centers. As a result of this revision, Florida received a 50% reduction in its funding and the Network closed its state-wide office.

In 1981, Florida's programs were on the verge of closure. With only a few weeks left in the 1981 State Legislative Session, as a last resort, the members decided to ask the Florida Legislature to replace the lost federal money with state dollars. Members rallied around this issue and brought

a bill before the Legislature. As a result of the Network's initiative, \$307,000 was appropriated to Florida's runaway programs. Over the next few years, an external evaluation of Florida's runaway programs was conducted and member agencies scored very well.

Throughout the 1980's the Network accomplished significant achievements, including:



1982

A second state-wide conference was convened to draft a Runaway Youth Act for the state of Florida.

1982

The Florida Legislature passed the Florida Runaway Youth and Family Act and established the Statewide Task Force to write a comprehensive service plan.

1983

The Statewide Task Force Report was adopted by the state Legislature.

1984

The Florida Network established an office in Tallahassee and hired a small staff.

1988

A Board of Trustees was founded to assist with private fundraising.

1988

The creation of our nation's only state-wide toll-free hotline for runaways was funded by the state's telecommunications industry.

The 1990's have written exciting new chapters in the history of the

Florida Network. A massive construction project was undertaken in 1990-1992 to construct or renovate nine shelters. In 1992, the Florida Legislature decided to completely privatize services to the population served by the Florida Network agencies. The responsibility for intake and evaluation was turned over to the Network. Whenever a problem occurred in the schools, in a neighborhood, or within another social service agency, a referral would be made directly to a private community service provider and the young person would not become part of the HRS system.

In 1994, the Florida Network and its clients were moved to the newly-created Department of Juvenile Justice. The Network provides the "front end" prevention services for the whole arena of delinquency prevention. More than 85% of the children and families which are helped by Network programs are kept out of the system and go on to lead productive lives.

In 1997, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 278 which provides a parent hotline, longer-term shelter stays (up to 120 days), and the establishment of a pilot program offering longer-term, more intensive, non-voluntary services.

During FY 1996-1997, Florida Network member agencies, which currently operate 30 shelters across the state, provided services and support to over 27,000 youth. Since 1984, the Florida Legislature has substantially contributed to the implementation of the Statewide Plan, with the 1997 appropriation reaching \$23.5 million. Network member agencies have generated an additional \$10 million for a continuum of services.

Huckleberry House, Columbus, Ohio

Founded 1970

By Roger Minner, Associate Director

We opened the doors at Huckleberry House in Columbus, Ohio, on November 16, 1970, to provide comprehensive crisis services to runaway and homeless adolescents and their families. Our first budget was \$30,000; even though times were lean, we managed to be there 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Like most other agencies serving this population, what we were doing was sorely needed, not provided, distrusted by many citizens, and illegal. We had a great deal of suspicion to overcome and bridges to build. Many hours were spent with community leaders and law enforcement personnel educating and convincing them that we were not aiding and abetting runaways, but rather providing an opportunity for them to get back home and stay there.

In 1974, we applied and were awarded a grant from funds allocated from the Runaway Youth Act for crisis intervention and family reconciliation services. Twenty-five years later, we still depend greatly on this funding, and it supports much more today. Over the years, we listened to the young people and families we served and learned how to improve upon and expand what we do. We learned that being able to provide follow-up services goes a long way to sustaining the family reconciliation process; we learned that using young people in key staff roles assists in quickly establishing a relationship with a youth in crisis; we learned that a crisis center is not always needed or even the best place to do crisis intervention; we learned that for some older, homeless adolescents, returning home might be

counter-productive to the family reconciliation process, and other alternatives are needed; and we learned there are hundreds of homeless young people on the streets who will never use our crisis program. Most importantly, we have maintained an individualized, youth-focused, family-centered approach where we ask "What do you need?" rather than "This is what we provide."



In response to what we learned, Huckleberry House added limited crisis follow-up services in 1976, and expanded to a full-service outpatient program in 1980. In 1989, in response to customer feedback and internal studies on effectiveness with our most challenged youth, we began an intensive home-based counseling program. We eventually converted all of our outpatient services to the home-based model.

In 1987, we began administering Project Safe Place for the Columbus and Franklin County area. Today, we have 118 Safe Place sites.

In 1989, Huckleberry House took on leadership for the county-wide Youth Outreach Program. This project was begun by the City of Columbus and United Way to provide outreach and intervention services to youth at risk for gang involvement, violence, and substance abuse. The Youth Outreach Program expanded in 1994 to include the use of a van to increase visibility and recognition. Youth Outreach also began providing Rites of Passage services to young men and women in 1995.

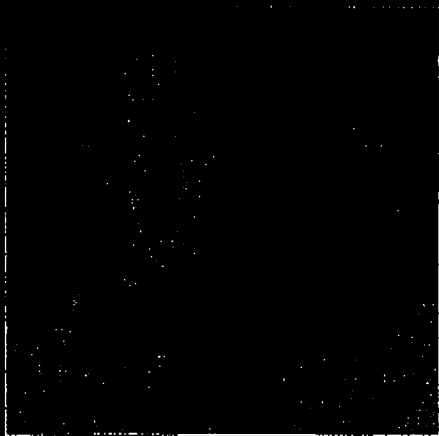
After providing transitional living services to select youth unable to reconcile with their families and for whom traditional service systems would not help, Huckleberry House finally received funding to develop a full-blown Transitional Living Program in 1991. Like all of our other follow-up services, we target the most challenged youth with no other options, making our program the only one of its kind in Franklin County. Our most recent service addition to the Huckleberry House continuum is RRT, or a Rapid Response Team. This service is targeted to assist other community-based agencies in ensuring that multi-challenged youth are safe and at home.

With a budget of more than \$2.5 million, we serve more than 1,000 young people and families each year. Congratulations to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act! For 25 years, it has enabled Huckleberry House and many other youth-serving organizations to pursue a mission of family reconciliation. We look forward to many more years of support.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
CONTACT
HUCKLEBERRY
HOUSE, 1421
HAMLET
STREET,
COLUMBUS,
OH 43201;
PHONE (614)
294-8097.

The First Programs to Receive Demonstration Contract Awards for Runaway Youth, 1974

- **Alaska Children's Service** Anchorage, Alaska
- **San Diego Youth Services** San Diego, Calif.
- **Youth Advocates** San Francisco, Calif.
- **S.W. Denver Community Mental Health Services** Denver, Colo.
- **The Bridge-Metro Atlanta Mediation Center** Atlanta, Ga.
- **Hale Kipa** Honolulu, Hawaii
- **Metro Help** Chicago, Ill.
- **New Life House** Chicago, Ill.
- **MacNeal Memorial Hospital, Youth Project** Berwyn, Ill.
- **Alternatives** Columbus, Ind.
- **Youth Services** New Orleans, La.
- **Second Mile House** Hyattsville, Md.
- **Family Service/Montgomery County** Rockville, Md.
- **Project Place-Interseminarian** Boston, Mass.
- **Freeport, Inc.** Chestnut Hill, Mass.
- **Ozone House** Ann Arbor, Mich.
- **The Bridge for Runaway Youth** Minneapolis, Minn.
- **United Indians Group Home** Minneapolis, Minn.
- **Youth Emergency Service** Las Vegas, Nev.
- **Focus Youth Service** Las Vegas, Nev.
- **Covenant House** New York, N.Y.
- **The Center for Youth Services** Rochester, N.Y.
- **Huckleberry House** Columbus, Ohio
- **Looking Glass Family Crisis Intervention Center** Eugene, Ore.
- **Valley Youth House** Bethlehem, Pa.
- **Voyage House** Philadelphia, Pa.
- **Amicus House** Pittsburgh, Pa.
- **The Family Connection** Houston, Texas
- **Juvenile Assistance** McLean, Va.
- **Youth Advocates** Seattle, Wash.
- **Briarpatch** Madison, Wis.
- **Special Approaches to Juvenile Assistance** Washington, D.C.



Seventeen-year-old Becky L. of Arlington, Va., testifies before the Senate subcommittee about how she ran away from home, went to jail, was raped and spent some time in a mental hospital. The subcommittee was considering \$30 million legislation, the original Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, which would establish a nationwide network of shelter homes for runaway teenagers.

The picture and accompanying story ran on the front page of the Washington Daily News, Friday, January 14, 1972.

The National Grantees Under the Runaway Youth Act, 1976

REGION I

- Child & Family Services Manchester, N.H.
- Runaway Youth Project Manchester, N.H.
- Bridge of Educational Resources, Inc. West Hartford, Conn.
- Newton-Wellesley-Weston Multi-Service Center Newton, Mass.
- Washington County Council of Human Resources, Inc. (Country Roads) Montpelier, Vt.

REGION II

- New York City Youth Board New York, N.Y.
- Town of Huntington Youth Bureau (Sanctuary Project) Huntington Station, N.Y.
- Center for Youth Services, Inc. Rochester, N.Y.
- Nassau County Youth Board Carle Place, N.Y.
- GLIE Community Youth Program Bronx, N.Y.

REGION III

- Southern Area Youth Services Camp Springs, Md.
- Zocalo, Inc. Washington, D.C.
- Juvenile Assistance McLean, Va.
- Help Line Center, Inc. Lansdale, Pa.
- Bureau of Children's Services Scranton, Pa.
- Daymark, Inc. Charleston, W.Va.
- Southwestern Community Action Council Huntington, W.Va.

REGION IV

- YMCA Center for Youth Alternatives Louisville, Ky.
- E.S., Inc. (Oasis Runaway House) Nashville, Tenn.
- The Corner Drugstore (Runaway Youth Shelter Project) Gainesville, Fla.
- Catholic Service Bureau, Archdiocese of Miami (Miami Bridge) Miami, Fla.
- American Red Cross Network of Runaway Homes Birmingham, Ala.
- Runaway Center, Inc. Merritt Island, Fla.

REGION V

- East Central Illinois Youth Service Bureau Charleston, Ill.
- Racine Runaways, Inc. Racine, Wis.
- The Salvation Army Terre Haute, Ind.
- Youth Crisis Center Gary, Ind.

- City of South Bend Youth Service Bureau South Bend, Ind.
- Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland Cleveland, Ohio
- Butler County Youth Service Bureau Hamilton, Ohio

REGION VI

- El Paso Runaway Center, Inc. El Paso, Texas
- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau, Inc. (Project Option) Killeen, Texas
- Catholic Family and Children's Services, Inc. (The Bridge, Runaway Youth) San Antonio, Texas
- Youth Development, Inc. (Amistad, Runaway Youth) Albuquerque, N.M.

REGION VII

- Iowa Runaway Services Des Moines, Iowa
- Youth Service System Lincoln, Neb.
- United Methodist Society of Omaha Omaha, Neb.
- Youth In Need, Inc. St. Charles, Mo.

REGION VIII

- Young Life Campaign (Dale House Project) Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Southwestern Wyoming, Inc. Evanston, Wyo.
- Community Organizations Operation Program, Inc. (Salt Lake County Coordinated Runaway Program) Salt Lake City, Utah

REGION IX

- Berkeley Youth Alternatives Runaway House Berkeley, Calif.
- Center for Youth Resources, DEA Turn of Mind Phoenix, Ariz.
- Open-Inn, Inc. Tucson, Ariz.
- Helpline Youth Counseling, Inc., The Petour Bellflower, Calif.
- Nevada State Department of Human Resources Reno, Nev.
- Head Rest, Inc. Modesto, Calif.

REGION X

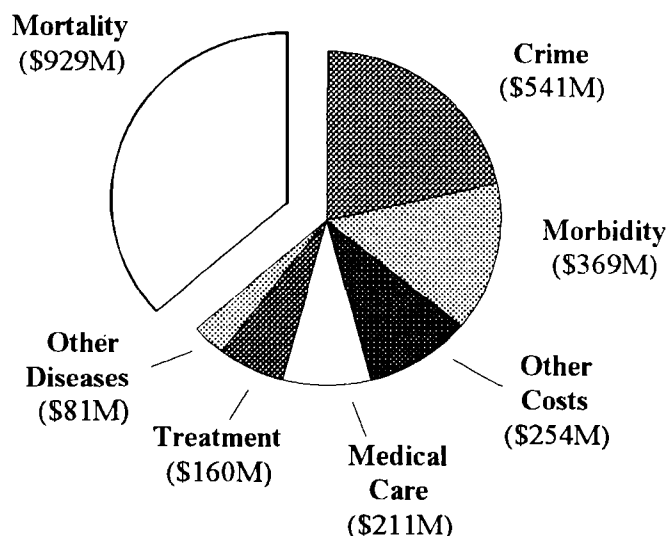
- Skagit Group Ranch Home, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Portland, Ore.
- Whatcom Family YMCA Bellingham, Wash.

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Half of All Washington State Alcohol and Drug Costs Stem from Premature Deaths and Crime

The costs of untreated alcohol and drug abuse in Washington State totaled an estimated \$2.54 billion in 1996, according to a recent report. This amount represents an increase over the 1990 cost estimate of \$1.81 billion. The State reported that the majority of these costs stem from substance abuse-related premature mortality (\$929 million), crime (\$541 million), and morbidity (\$369 million). Approximately \$160 million was spent to provide substance abuse treatment. The report stated that alcohol abuse accounted for about 59% of the total costs and other drugs for the remaining 41%.

Economic Costs of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse in Washington State, 1996 (Total Costs=\$2.54 Billion)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Washington State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Department of Social and Health Services, "The Economic Costs of Drug and Alcohol Abuse in Washington State, 1996," March 1999. Copies are available from the Washington State Alcohol Drug Clearinghouse at 206-725-9696.

CSAT by Fax is a bi-weekly publication produced and distributed by facsimile by the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland, under contract 99M004258, and may be copied without permission with appropriate citation. For subscription information or corrections, please call (301) 443-7517. Information about CSAT, its services and products may be obtained by calling the CSAT Office of Communications and External Liaison at (301) 443-5052. Outcome studies and other relevant data for possible reporting in **CSAT by Fax** may be sent to: CESAR, ATTN: **CSAT by Fax**, 4321 Hartwick Road, Suite 501, College Park, MD 20740, telephone: (301) 403-8329, fax: (301) 403-8342, or <cesar@cesar.umd.edu>.

Both keep records + share by regulation

SUBJECT: Emergency Rescheduling Authority - Dual Enforcement

I **Limiting Principle** - Two sets of eyes are always better than one. The public is always benefitted by the dual expertise of FDA and DEA. Single enforcement here risks public safety.

DEA

HHS' paper accurately describes the background to this issue, but we believe requires some amplification on the issues of the problem to be fixed (II) and HHS' concerns (III).

II The Problem

While our goal is to ultimately address "street" abuse of controlled substances subject to IND's, we are concerned that when a drug becomes the subject of emergency rescheduling and is the subject of an IND, the circumstance which this new statute will permit; organized crime elements will especially target researchers and thus that DEA's special expertise in combating these criminals will be needed.

At the same time, legitimate medico-scientific research is essential to improved health care. We do not want to impose additional restrictions which may deter researchers from undertaking new projects.

HHS' concerns can be readily addressed through coordination which achieves the goals of law enforcement and research science and accordingly the public.

III Eliminating HHS' Concerns

We propose for the Attorney General to promulgate the same regulations currently promulgated by the Secretary of HHS. Courts currently afford greater deference to an agency's interpretation of its own regulations than its interpretations of another agency's regulations. Accordingly, this seemingly minor provision will have huge impact on DEA's ability to fight drug crime. If the dual authority provision is not included, DOJ will retain its inherent constitutional and statutory authority to maintain actions against offenders, but will have a weaker position in court. This will be the worst of both worlds.

We are very sensitive to HHS' concerns regarding dual record-keeping requirements and dual security regulations. However, because OMB approves all agencies' regulations, there is no problem. Moreover, if there are concerns regarding differing interpretations, both HHS and DOJ can promulgate regulations which provide for the AG and the Secretary to resolve differing interpretations. As always, in the extraordinary circumstance that two Cabinet officials cannot resolve a single dispute, there is always an "appeal" to the appropriate White House office. Accordingly, there should not be a concern regarding dual interpretations.

How can we fashion compromise that meets needs of both?

Questions: ① What burden does DEA pose + how? Records? Enforcement? But heads?
② How / what instance would DEA / FDA differ on regulations?

I. Background

HHS and DOJ have already agreed to the following expansions of DOJ's emergency scheduling authority:

- DOJ can emergency schedule and reschedule drugs under IND.
- FDA will periodically certify to DEA that an IND is being actively pursued.
- Researchers will periodically certify that they can account for all drug product.
- DEA can bring criminal charges against IND holders if FDA finds that they have violated the terms of their IND.

The following issues remain:

- DOJ wants parallel, independent authority to promulgate recordkeeping and reporting requirements mirroring FDA requirements, and to investigate and prosecute violations.
- HHS is concerned that DOJ will impose on IND researchers the security requirements that apply to drug manufacturers who handle large amounts of drug substance.

II. What problem are we trying to fix?

- The problem DOJ seeks to address with this legislation is "street" abuse of substances that are being researched under INDs. The provisions already agreed to are fully adequate to address this abuse.
- There has never been evidence, or even allegations, of diversion of IND drugs by an IND researcher. Legitimate researchers and drug suppliers have a strong interest in preventing diversion to preserve their ongoing relationships with FDA, DEA, and the scientific and medical research community.
- Imposing additional regulatory burdens decreases the incentive to conduct this essential scientific and medical research. One of the core principles of this administration is that we do not impose regulatory burdens unless there is a demonstrated need for additional regulation. There is no demonstrated need in this area.

III. What are the problems with DOJ's proposed legislation?

Record Keeping and Reporting Requirements

- Duplicate regulations will result in confusion and impose excessive regulatory burdens on researchers who will be required to comply with two sets of regulations governing the same activity.
- Interpretation and enforcement of regulations by two different agencies could result in confusion and inconsistent enforcement since the same conduct could be determined to be violative by one agency, but not the other. Such inconsistency would undercut the authority of both agencies.

Security Requirements

- Compliance with extensive security requirements will be excessively costly for researchers who are producing small amounts of a drug substance for research purposes only, and are generally not realizing a profit from the sale of substances under IND.
- Existing FDA regulations address the security and accountability of controlled substances and permit DEA to inspect a researcher's records and facility.



1.3 million runaway and homeless youth live on the streets of America.



One out of every seven children will run away sometime between the ages of 10 and 18.



Every year approximately 5,000 runaway and homeless youth die from assault, illness, and suicide.

The five top issues callers discuss on the NRS crisis line

Family Dynamics:

problems with parents/guardians, divorce, remarriage, conflicts with siblings, extended family, disagreement with household rules

Peers:

pressure from friends, dating, relationships, alcohol and drug use/abuse, gang issues

Youth Services:

conflict with social worker or case worker, involvement with child protective services/social services, placement in alternative housing

School:

grades, workload, problems with teachers/administration, suspension, expulsion

Abuse:

neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse

Other issues include: mental health, depression, suicide, involvement with judicial system involvement, physical health, and sexuality.

National Runaway Switchboard Programs & Services

Crisis Line 1-800-621-4000:

The NRS operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls to the crisis line are confidential. Our philosophy is to handle all calls in a non-judgmental and non-directive manner. Volunteers answering the crisis calls use a five-step model of crisis intervention to assist callers in developing their best solutions.

Conference Calls:

When youth request assistance contacting their family or an agency that can help them, the NRS will conference a call to provide support and ensure services. We will support youth in making an abuse report, finding shelter, or talking with their parent, legal guardian, or social worker.

Message Service:

Runaways and their legal guardians can leave messages for each other through the NRS. The message service can be a safe way to reestablish communication.

Information & Referral:

The NRS maintains a national database and referral library of nearly 200,000 resources including counseling, alternative housing, runaway shelters, substance abuse treatment, medical assistance, legal information, and child protective services.

Home Free:

In partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc. the NRS helps reunite runaways with their families. To initiate a ticket, the runaway youth must call the NRS. The process includes a mediated conference call to the runaway's parent/legal guardian and confirmation of a runaway report to local police. After the youth has returned home, the NRS follows up with a phone call to all families using the Home Free program to offer additional referrals and support.

Education & Outreach:

Community educators can receive a free copy of the NRS Runaway Prevention Curriculum Guide complete with a seven minute video, "On the Street." The NRS also provides promotional material free of charge for distribution at health fairs, meetings, school assemblies, and employee assistance programs.

Website:

Check out www.nrscrisisline.org to find information for teens, parents, and agencies. The NRS website has the most current national and regional statistics, a bulletin board feature, and on-line links.

Family Communication Tips

1. Set aside time to talk every day.
2. Don't expect your family to read your mind.
3. Be specific about your expectations and requests.
4. Have patience, good communication takes time and effort.
5. Brainstorm ideas before making a final decision.
6. Ask for input from all family members.
7. Write things down, make a list of changes you want to see.
8. Be willing to compromise.
9. Do fun things together.
10. Use community resources when you need help.



National Runaway Switchboard
1-800-621-4000
www.nrscrisisline.org

Mission Statement

National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to provide crisis intervention and referrals for youth and families through national and local telephone switchboards, as well as advocacy and educational services on the problems of youth.

The National Runaway Switchboard has served as the federally-designated National Communication System for runaway and homeless youth since 1974.

National Runaway Switchboard

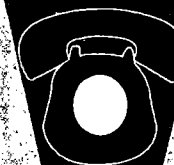
3080 N. Lincoln Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60657

office phone: (773) 880-9860
office fax: (773) 929-5150
website: www.nrscrisisline.org
e-mail: info@nrscrisisline.org



CRISIS LINE: 1-800-621-4000
TDD: 1-800-621-0394

National Runaway Switchboard



24 Hours
A Day
365 Days
A Year

1-800-621-4000

The National Runaway Switchboard operates a confidential hotline for runaway youth, teens in crisis, and concerned friends & family members.

The NRS provides crisis intervention, message relay between runaways and their parent/legal guardian, referrals & conference calls, education & outreach services, and the Home Free program in partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc.

All services are free and available 24 hours every day.

The NRS is a volunteer-based, not-for-profit organization headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

Are there signs my teen might be thinking of running away?

While no one can say for certain which teens will run and which teens won't, here are some signals for you to look for:

Changes in behaviors or patterns mean something is wrong: teens who suddenly stop eating or begin to overeat, sleep all day or never sleep, spend all their time with friends or never want to leave their room. Sudden mood swings mean teens are unsettled and restless. They're not coping well with stress.

Rebellious behavior is often the start of trouble: dropping grades, truancy, breaking rules at home, picking fights with the family are all symptoms that your child is having problems.

Disclosure of intentions to run away: some teens will hint that they want to run away and some will outright threaten their family with running. Sometimes a family will hear rumors through friends, school, or other parents that their child is thinking of leaving home.

Accumulation of money and possessions: To survive, runaways need money and resources. Some runaways prepare for their run by slowly withdrawing cash from their savings accounts. Keeping a bag or backpack of clothes in the closet might mean they are waiting to make a quick escape.

It's important to confront your suspicions right away. Clearly and calmly let your teen know you are concerned about them and their behavior makes you afraid they might run away from home. Invite them to talk with you or someone else about what is troubling them and be supportive of finding positive ways to deal with their stress. Let them know you don't want them to run away and you're committed to helping the family work things out.

What should I do if my youth is away?

1. Notify the police and file a missing persons report. Keep records of all details of the investigation and stay in touch with authorities while your child is missing.
2. Call the National Runaway Switchboard at 1-800-621-4000. The NRS operates a 24-hour confidential hotline for runaway teens and their families. Services include: crisis intervention, message relay between runaways and their families, information, referrals, and the Home Free program in partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc. The NRS will help you to process the situation and give you support.
3. Leave a message with the NRS for your youth to pick up confidentially by calling the hotline. Youth can also leave messages for you.
4. Alert friends, family and neighbors with the news that your teen is missing. Let them know you're concerned and ask for their cooperation and support.
5. Check any records that may give clues about your child's whereabouts. Look at phone bills, e-mail activity, pager records, credit card activity, bus or airline dockets, bank statements, and employment records.
6. Visit your child's school. Ask the administration, security, teachers and registrar for any records that might be useful.
7. Use available technology. Call your phone company to see what types of caller identification or tracing technology is available in your area.
8. Let your neighborhood and community know that you're searching. Posters might be helpful if you feel your teen is still in the local area. You may wish to contact the news desk of your local television station or newspaper.
9. If you think there's a chance your child was abducted or need assistance in distributing posters nationwide, contact hotlines for parents of missing children. The NRS can provide you with national and local referrals.
10. Take care of yourself. Not knowing where your teen is a horrible experience for any parent. This is not something you have to deal with alone. Think of people you know and trust who can support you and ask for their help. The NRS is available 24 hours every day for you to discuss your feelings.

How should I handle it when my youth returns home?

☐ **Be happy they returned home.** While you may be understandably very upset with your child, let your first words to them be calm and welcoming. Many teens stay away because they are afraid of the initial confrontation with their parents when they return. Take a very long, deep breath and tell your child that are relieved to have them home.

☐ **Allow time to settle in.** Most runaways have not had the luxury of consistent access to food or shelter while they are on the run. Perhaps your child needs a shower, a meal, and a clean set of clothes.

☐ **See if medical attention is warranted.** A visit to your family doctor might be in order.

☐ **Talk with your teen.** Concentrate on how the two of you can work together to prevent any repeat running away behavior. Acknowledge that some problems take a lot of time and effort to improve. Make a commitment to finding a safe and reasonable resolution to the current problems and situations.

☐ **Make follow up phone calls to anyone you contacted while your child was on the run.** Let friends and family know that your child has returned home. Call the police to let them know your child is no longer missing.

☐ **Look to outside resources for assistance.** There are people and places in your community that can help your family. Family counseling can help everyone. Asking for help is a sign of strength and shows you are taking the issues at hand seriously.

HOME FREE: If your runaway teen wants to come home and you need assistance with transportation, the National Runaway Switchboard may be able to help. The Home Free program, sponsored by Greyhound Lines, Inc., grants free bus tickets to qualified runaway youth. The program is open to youth ages 12-18. To begin the process, the youth must call the NRS at 1-800-621-4000 and ask about the Home Free program.



National Runaway Switchboard Services

Crisis Line 1-800-621-4000:

The NRS operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls to the crisis line are confidential. Our philosophy is to handle all calls in a non-judgmental and non-directive manner. Volunteers answering the crisis calls use a five-step model of crisis intervention to assist callers develop their best solutions.

Message Service:

Runaways and their legal guardians can leave messages for each other through the NRS. The message service can be a safe way to reestablish communication.

Information & Referral:

The NRS maintains a national database and referral library of nearly 200,000 resources including counseling, alternative housing, runaway shelters, substance abuse treatment, medical assistance, legal information, and child protective services.

Home Free:

In partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc. the NRS helps reunite runaways with their families. To initiate a ticket, the runaway youth must call the NRS. The process includes a mediated conference call home to the runaway's parent/legal guardian and confirmation of a runaway report to local police. The NRS follows up with every family using the Home Free program to ensure services, provide additional referrals, and offer support.

Website:

Check out www.nrscrisisline.org to find information, national and regional statistics, our bulletin board, and on-line links.

Conference Calls:

When a youth requests help contacting their family or an agency that can assist them, the NRS will conference a call to ensure services.

Education & Outreach:

The NRS provides promotional material free of charge for distribution at health fairs, meetings, school assemblies, and employee assistance programs.

Mission Statement

National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to provide crisis intervention and referrals for youth and families through national and local telephone switchboards, as well as advocacy and educational services on the problems of youth.

The National Runaway Switchboard has served as the federally-designated National Communication System for runaway and homeless youth since 1974.

National Runaway Switchboard

3080 N. Lincoln Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60657

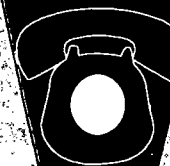
office phone: (773) 880-9860
office fax: (773) 929-5150
website: www.nrscrisisline.org
e-mail: info@nrscrisisline.org



CRISIS LINE: 1-800-621-4000
TDD: 1-800-621-0394

National Runaway Switchboard

24 Hours
A Day
365 Days
A Year



Parents

1-800-621-4000

The National Runaway Switchboard operates a confidential hotline for runaway youth, teens in crisis, and concerned friends & family members.

The NRS provides crisis intervention, message relay between runaways and their parent/legal guardian, referrals & conference calls, education & outreach services, and the Home Free program in partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc.

All services are free and available 24 hours every day.

The NRS is a volunteer-based, not-for-profit organization headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.



1.3 million runaway and homeless youth live on the streets of America.



One out of every seven children will run away sometime between the ages of 10 and 18.



Every year approximately 5,000 runaway and homeless youth die from assault, illness, and suicide.

The five top issues callers discuss on the NRS crisis line

Family Dynamics:

problems with parents/guardians, divorce, remarriage, conflicts with siblings, extended family, disagreement with household rules

Peers:

pressure from friends, dating, relationships, alcohol and drug use/abuse, gang issues

Youth Services:

conflict with social worker or case worker, involvement with child protective services/social services, placement in alternative housing

School:

grades, workload, problems with teachers/administration, suspension, expulsion

Abuse:

neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse

Other issues include: mental health, depression, suicide, involvement with judicial system, involvement, physical health, and sexuality.

The NRS receives over 100,000 calls every year.

Na iona Runaway Swi chboa d Programs & Services

Crisis Line 1-800-621-4000:

The NRS operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls are confidential. We don't use any kind of caller identification devices or tracing technology. We handle all calls in a non-judgmental and non-directive manner which means we won't tell you what to do.

Crisis Intervention

The NRS helps all callers to explore facts and feelings about their situation, focus on the main issue(s), develop options, and establish a plan of action. Our goal is to empower callers to make decisions that they feel are right for them.

Conference Calls:

When you need to contact your family or an agency to assist you, the NRS will conference a call and stay on the line with you for support. We will help you make an abuse report, find shelter, or talk with your parent or social worker.

Message Service:

If you run away from home, you can leave messages for your family through the NRS. You give us the message and we'll call them to deliver it for you. They can leave a reply for you, too.

Information & Referral:

The NRS has referral library of nearly 200,000 resources! You can get names and numbers of places that provide counseling, alternative housing, runaway shelters, substance abuse treatment, legal information, and child protective services.

Home Free:

With the help of Greyhound Lines, Inc. the NRS helps reunite runaways with their families. To initiate a ticket, the runaway youth first calls the NRS. The process includes a mediated conference call home to the runaway's parent/legal guardian and confirmation of a runaway report with local police.

Website:

Check out the NRS on-line at www.nrscrisisline.org. You can find information, statistics, links, and a bulletin board feature to post questions confidentially.

You Can Help the NRS:

The NRS needs your help to increase awareness about our hotline services in your community. We'll send you NRS posters and you distribute them where you think they'll be seen. Call 1-800-621-4000 to volunteer.

NRS CRISIS LINE: 1-800-621-4000

NRS WEBSITE: www.nrscrisisline.org

Ten Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Run Away

1. What else can I do to improve my home situation before I leave?
2. What would make me stay at home?
3. How will I survive?
4. Is running away safe?
5. Who can I count on to help me?
6. Am I being realistic?
7. Have I given this enough thought?
8. What are my other options?
9. If I end up in trouble who will I call?
10. When I return home, what will things be like?



You can call the
National Runaway Switchboard at
1-800-621-4000

any time of the day or night.
Whether you are thinking of running
or have run, we can help you.

Mission Statement

National Runaway Switchboard (NRS)
is a not-for-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to provide crisis intervention and referrals for youth and families through national and local telephone switchboards, as well as advocacy and educational services on the problems of youth.

The National Runaway Switchboard
has served as the federally-designated
National Communication System for runaway
and homeless youth since 1974.

National Runaway Switchboard

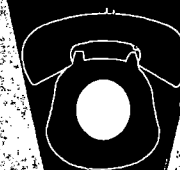
3080 N. Lincoln Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60657

office phone: (773) 880-9860
office fax: (773) 929-5150
website: www.nrscrisisline.org
e-mail: info@nrscrisisline.org



CRISIS LINE: 1-800-621-4000
TDD: 1-800-621-0394

National Runaway Switchboard



24 Hours
A Day
365 Days
A Year

Youth

1-800-621-4000

The National Runaway Switchboard operates a confidential hotline for runaway youth, teens in crisis, and concerned friends & family members.

The NRS provides crisis intervention, message relay between runaways and their parent/legal guardian, referrals & conference calls, education & outreach services, and the Home Free program in partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc.

All services are free and available 24 hours every day.

The NRS is a volunteer-based, not-for-profit organization headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

FRONTLINE

The Newsletter of the National Runaway Switchboard

3080 North Lincoln Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60657

telephone: 773-880-9860 • fax: 773-929-5150 • e-mail: info@nrscrisisline.org

Internet: www.nrscrisisline.org • Crisis line: 1-800-621-4000

25th Anniversary!

1999 marks the 25th anniversary of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA). The original Act was passed by Congress as part of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974 and we've been making history ever since.

For 25 years the National Runaway Switchboard has served as the national communication system for youth. We have answered millions of phone calls from runaways, homeless youth, youth in crisis, and concerned friends and family members. Our services have grown to include a computerized national database of resources, the Home Free program in cooperation with Greyhound Lines, Inc., and our website at www.nrscrisisline.org. We are constantly striving to reach youth and families across the country and to meet their needs.

American teens in 1974 and 1999 have many of the same concerns -- family dynamics, peer pressure, school achievement, abuse,

neglect, and physical and mental health. While HIV/AIDS and gangs have presented new dangers to youth, service providers are rising to the challenge with innovative prevention and outreach programs to keep kids safe.

We are proud to announce we have received the RHYA grant to continue providing services for you. We thank you for your on-going support over the last 25 years and look forward to many more years in the future.

Join the NRS as we celebrate our 25th anniversary. See details of activities and programs on page 2!



Legislative Events in the History of the Runaway & Homeless Youth Act

Reprinted with permission from the National Network for Youth

1972 Senator Birch Bayh, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency, opens the first Congressional hearings on the problems of runaway youth.

1973 Senator Birch Bayh introduces S. 645, the Runaway Youth Act

1974 The Runaway Youth Act is passed by Congress as part of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974 and signed into law (P.L. 93-415) by President Gerald R. Ford.

1977 The Juvenile Justice Amendments of 1977 are passed by Congress and signed into law

(P.L. 95-115) by President Jimmy Carter, extending Basic Center services to "otherwise homeless youth" between the ages of 16 to 21. These Amendments also authorized support for coordinated networks, known as the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) Training and Technical Assistance Providers.

1980 The title "Runaway Youth Act" is changed to the "Runaway and Homeless Youth Act."

1988 Congress creates the Transitional Living program for homeless youth to assist older youth in making the transition to independent living.

1988 Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, creating the Drug Abuse Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth.

1992 Congress reauthorized the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act through 1996.

1994 Congress authorized the "Education and Prevention Grants to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth" (known as the Street Outreach Program). This program was authorized in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and an amendment to RHYA.

FRONTLINE

Spring 1999 25th Anniversary

New Brochures

Order brochures at 1-800-621-4000

25th Anniversary Events

SPRING

25 ways to recognize volunteers

SUMMER

25 ways to keep busy and productive

FALL

25 ways to prevent runaway behavior

WINTER

25 youth art contest winners

Home Free Statistics for 1998

Website Update: On-Line Interaction

Volunteering

- April 18-24 is Volunteer Week
- Family Volunteering
- Quotes on Volunteering
- NRS Volunteer Reunion

Q&A

How can I help runaway and homeless youth in my community?

Keeper Page

1998 Hotline Statistics

25 Reasons to Volunteer

Lora Thomas
Executive Director
info@nrscrisisline.org

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

FRONTLINE

The Newsletter of the National Runaway Switchboard

3080 North Lincoln Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60657

telephone: 773-880-9860 • fax: 773-929-5150 • e-mail: info@nrscrisisline.org

Internet: www.nrscrisisline.org • Crisis line: 1-800-621-4000

Let's Talk

We often don't think about how hard good communication can be. We usually take it for granted. After all, it's something we've done our entire lives! When we're sharing good news, communication can be easy. However, when times are tough, communication can be very, very difficult.

On our crisis line, communication is limited to words. We don't have the luxury of visual cues, looks, smiles, or gestures. Volunteers and staff of the National Runaway Switchboard rely on a heightened ability to listen. Each individual can demonstrate the ability to focus on verbal communication skills and really pay attention to what is being said. When listening, we sometimes hear a rush of words punctuated by frustration, hesitation, or fear. At times words are shattered by tears, and at other times there's the roar of relief

when the weight of the world is lifted off of young shoulders. While it's not easy, listening is a communication skill worth acquiring.

Communication is important for everyone to learn. This issue of Front Line is full of useful communication tips. While most are geared for families, they can be used with co-workers, friends, fellow volunteers, and neighbors. We urge you to incorporate these communication tips into as many settings as you can. See how many of the tips you can use today. Remember, be patient -- improved communication skills take time and lots of practice. Share these tips with others! We can all be better communicators and it will make a difference.

...and speaking of those who are
"Making a Difference", kudos go to the following:

★ Officer Mike with the Overland MO Police Department, Juvenile Division, who displays NRS posters at businesses and in the police department front office. He also shares NRS materials at the Citizen's Police Academy.

★ Sharon (FL) and Dorothy (IL), who took NRS materials to the youth group at their churches.

★ Greg, in Erie County, PA, is a rock band leader who displays NRS posters where his

band performs.

★ Jaclyn, age 15, (CO) who travels though the southwest several times a year, and puts up NRS posters at stops along the way. And teenager Kelly (TX) who puts out NRS materials because she too says, "I believe anyone can make a difference."

Thanks, all! You are making a difference! Our 10,000 posters for 10,000 calls is working -- keep it up! More to follow in the December issue of Front Line!

Making Family Communication Work

Steven was preparing to come home after being on the run for over four days. He left abruptly after a huge fight with his Mom and went to stay with a friend about an hour away. Steven knew it was time to go home but he was very anxious about what going home would be like, so his friend told him to call the NRS.

Tim, the volunteer "Liner" at the NRS, talked with Steven about why he ran. "We're always fighting," he said, "Nobody gets along with anybody else. I hate being at home. They pick on me and get mad at me for no reason." Steven was particularly upset about how strict his parents had become over the summer. Steven was told he couldn't take driver's ed classes until his grades improved and although they improved a little, Steven's Mom said he couldn't take classes because of his "attitude problem". Steven didn't understand what they meant. He really wanted to learn to drive like his friends. His older sister was able to take driver's ed as soon as she turned 16 and he felt he was being treated unfairly.

Tim conferenced a call with Steven to his parents. When Steven's (continued on page 3)

FRONTLINE

Fall 1998

Family Communication Family Reunification

The Home Free program reunites over 200 runaways with their families each month.

Runaway Prevention

Ten questions teens should ask themselves before they run away.

Website Updates

More links to family service centers and a new bulletin board have recently been added.

Q&A

What's the most common reason people call the NRS?

Art Contest

The NRS is sponsoring its 2nd Annual Teen Art Contest. The theme is Family Communication.

Annual Benefit

Save the date
October 9, 1998

Keeper Page

Family Communication

Ten tips for better communication between teens and parents. Find out how to order free matching bookmarks.

NRS 1997 Statistics

The number one reason youth call the NRS is "Family Problems".

Lora Thomas

Executive Director

info@nrscrisisline.org

Home Free Data Summary

October 1995 – March 1999

The following statistics reflect **Home Free** activity from the beginning of the partnership of the **National Runaway Switchboard** and **Greyhound Lines Inc.**, October 15, 1995 through March 31, 1999.

6,672 Home Free Tickets Issued

3,005 Additional files have been opened on behalf of youth. Youth received NRS services, but the Home Free process was not complete.

9,677 Youth have been served by the National Runaway Switchboard and the Home Free program.

Of the 6,672 youth who have received tickets:

3,922 Females
2,750 Males

The top five reasons youth cited for leaving home:

Family Dynamics	(2,925)
Peer/Social	(2,670)
Youth Services	(217)
Judicial System	(208)
Alcohol/Drug Abuse	(182)

The majority of youth initiate Home Free from a youth service agency.

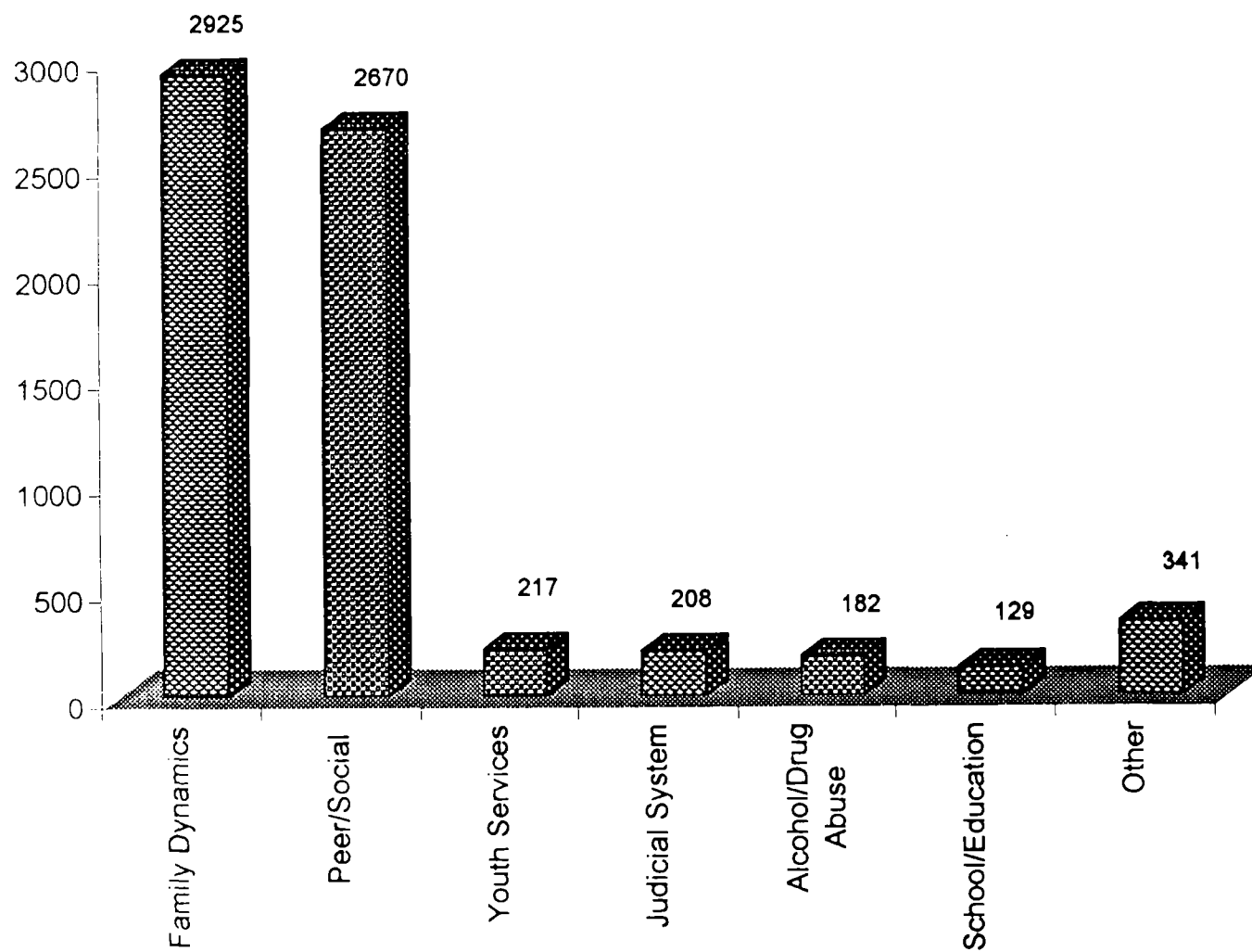
Shelters	(1,805)
Friends	(912)
Juvenile Detention	(872)
Police Station	(792)
On the Road	(524)
Other	(1,767)

- This data was not collected until 1997. The total number of youth with a known origin is 5,533.

The average age of a Home Free participant is 16 years old. The following is a breakdown of the actual number of tickets issued per age.

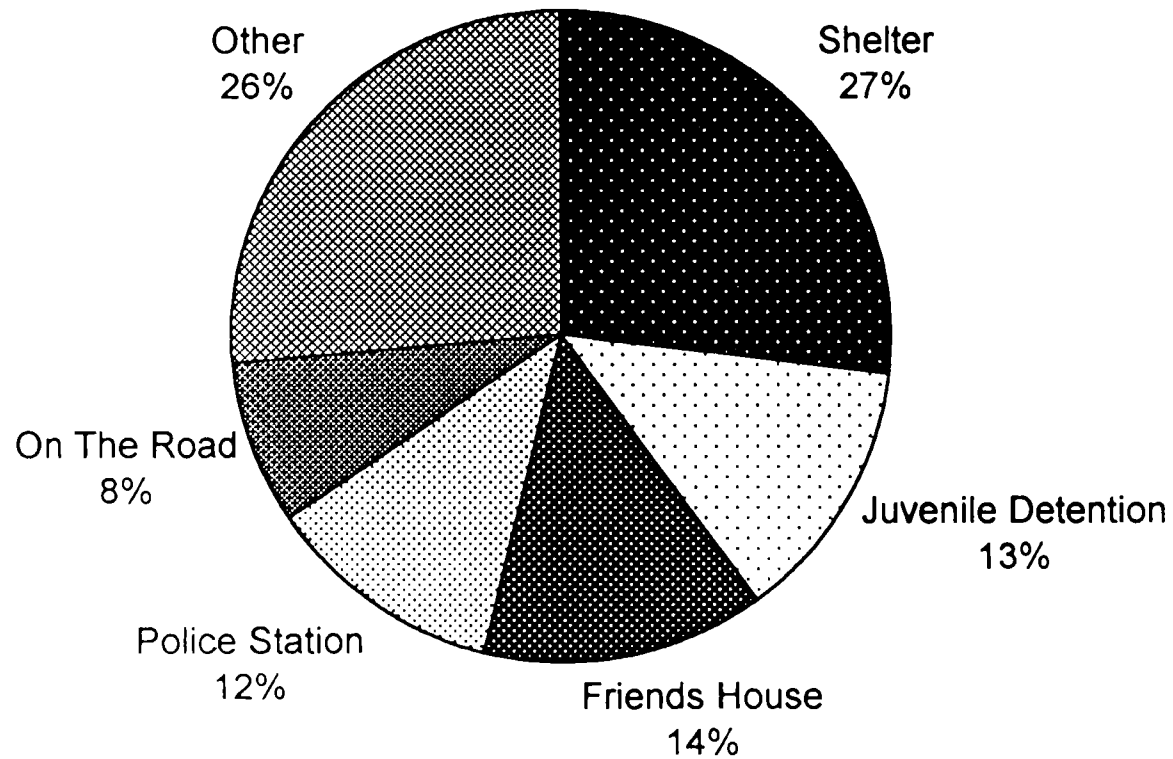
12 year old....	44
13 year old....	203
14 year old....	736
15 year old....	1,462
16 year old....	2,109
17 year old....	1,863
18 year old....	255

Primary Reasons Cited By Youth For Running Away:
Data Collected From October 1995 - March 1999



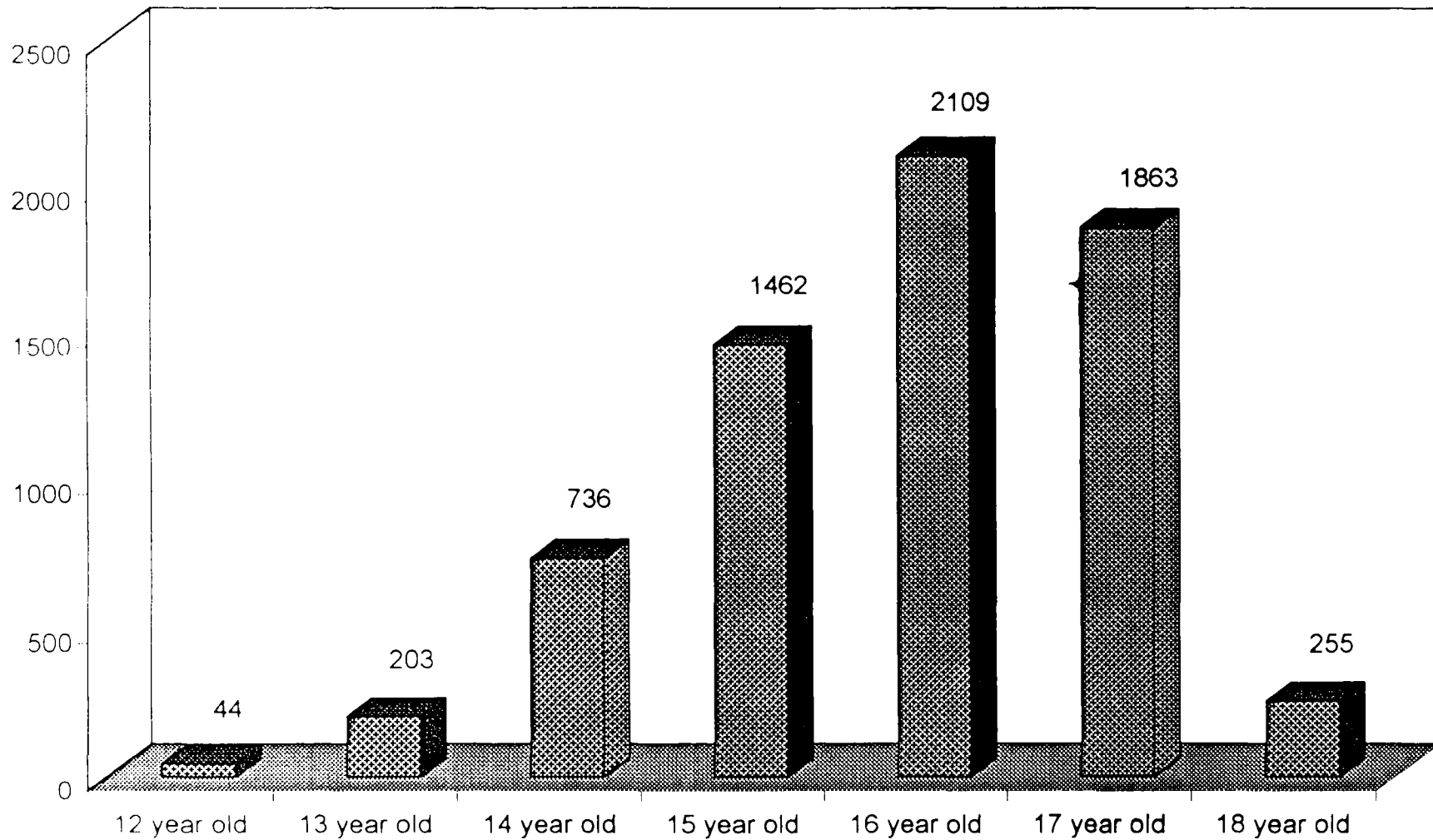
Youth Location At Time Of Home Free Participation:

**** This data was not collected until 1997. Total number of youth with a known origin is 5,533**

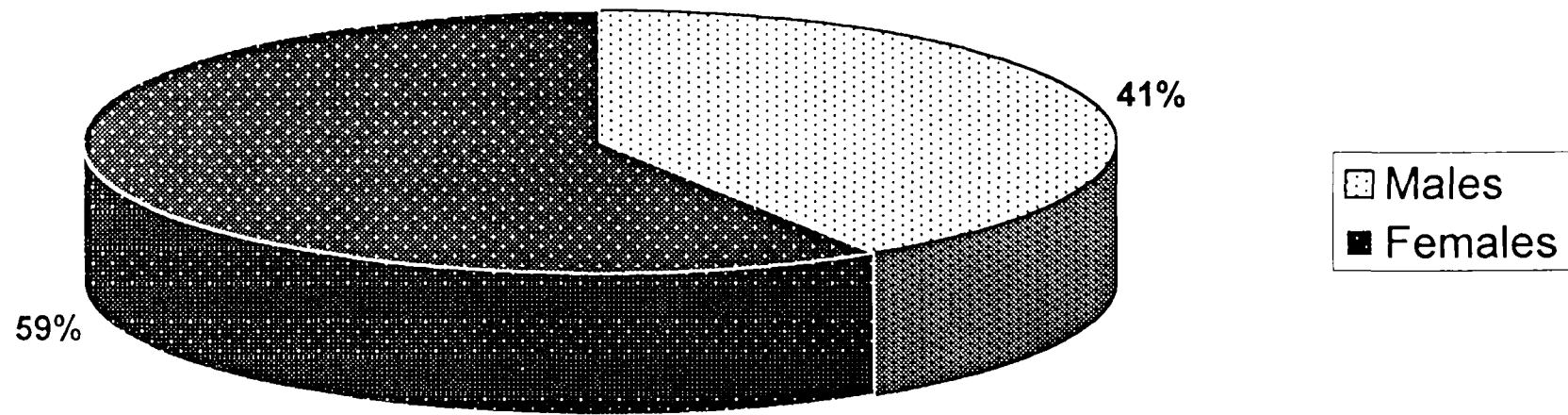


Age Breakdown Of Home Free Participants:

Data Collected From October 1995 - March 1999



**Male vs. Female Use Of Home Free:
October 1995 - March 1999**



NATIONAL STATISTICS

The National Runaway Switchboard received over 100,000 calls in fiscal year 1998.

Gender of Callers:

Female	Male
74%	26%

Age of Youth Callers:

<10	11-13	14-17
3%	11%	86%

Status of youth at the Time of the Call:

Runaway	Contemplating Running Away	Youth in Crisis	Homeless	Throwaway
64%	10%	22%	1%	3%



Length of time Runaway Youth was on the Run at the Time of Call:

0-3 Days	4-7 Days	1-4 Weeks	1-6 Months	> 6 Months
39%	22%	15%	19%	5%

356% of all runaway youth state they had run away before

40% of all runaway youth cross state lines

Issues Cited by NRS Callers:

Family Dynamics (divorce, remarriage, problems with siblings, extended family)	40%	School (problems with teachers/administration, suspension, expulsion)	8%
Peer/Social (pressure from friends, gang issues, dating and relationships)	15%	Alcohol/Drug Abuse (by youth, friend, parent, family member, treatment concerns)	5%
Youth Services (relationship with social worker, placement in alternative housing)	7%	Mental Health (depression, suicide, counseling or therapy concerns and referrals)	5%
Abuse (neglect, emotional maltreatment, physical abuse, sexual abuse)	8%	Judicial System (criminal involvement, probation/parole of self or others)	3%
Transportation (use the Home Free program)	6%	Health (physical ailment, pregnancy, STD's including HIV/AIDS)	2%
		Sexuality (homosexuality, bisexuality, sexual identity concerns of self or others)	1%

REGIONAL STATISTICS

The breakdown 1998 calls by state and region are as follows:

Region I		Region II		Region III		Region IV		Region V	
CT	1,134	NJ	2,508	DE	278	AL	1,134	IL	4,916
MA	2,125	NY	7,628	DC	410	FL	5,936	IN	2,072
ME	685	PR/VI	46	MD	1,211	GA	1,965	MI	2,353
NH	507			PA	4,839	KY	1,480	MN	1,360
RI	330			VA	2,829	MS	589	OH	2,088
VT	221			WV	671	NC	2,239	WI	1,995
						SC	1,185		
						TN	1,670		

Region VI		Region VII		Region VIII		Region IX		Region X	
AR	928	IA	945	CO	2,380	AZ	2,123	AL	1134
LA	1,105	KS	970	MT	401	CA	14,052	ID	448
NM	802	MO	1,988	ND	292	HI	144	OR	1,507
OK	1,293	NE	646	SD	337	NV	1,022	WA	2,307
TX	7,298			UT	1,067				
				WY	449				

National Runaway Switchboard

1-800-621-4000

"I am so thankful you were there when my grandson called from 3200 miles away from his home. He lives with me and I was worried beyond belief as to what happened to him. He called you then you called me and we had a three way conference call with a gentleman and he counseled us together to see what we could work out. At any rate, he got home safe and sound, with the help of the National Runaway Switchboard and I can't tell you how much I appreciate what you did for us."

- Thank you letter from the grandmother of a youth who used the HomeFree program

CHICAGO & ILLINOIS

Over 25,000 teens in Illinois are homeless or on the run, 50% are in Chicago. There are only 100 shelter beds available statewide for runaway and homeless youth. An average Illinois shelter turns away over 150 youth per year.

NATIONAL:

There are an estimated 1.3 million runaway and homeless youth in the United States. One in seven youth will run away sometime between the ages of 10 and 17. 5,000 runaway youth die each year from assault, illness, and suicide. On an average day in the United States, 3,228 children will run away from home. There are approximately 700 runaway shelters in the United States.

NRS:

The average age of our youth caller is 15.
Females represent 74% of our callers and 26% are male.
The 2 most common reasons youth call the NRS are family problems and peer pressure.

SERVICES:

Since 1974, the NRS has operated a confidential hotline for runaway youth, teens in crisis, and concerned friends and family members. All services are free and available 24 hours every day. The NRS provides crisis intervention, message relay between runaways and their legal guardian, referrals and conference calls, education and outreach services, and the Home Free program in partnership with Greyhound Buslines Inc. The NRS is a volunteer-based not-for-profit organization based in Chicago, Illinois.

3080 N. Lincoln Ave Chicago, Illinois 60657 • tel: (773) 880-9860 • fax: (773) 929-5150
Internet address: www.nrscrisisline.org • email: info@nrscrisisline.org
Crisis line: 1-800-621-4000

MISSION & HISTORY

MISSION STATEMENT

The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to provide crisis intervention and referrals for youth and their families through national and local telephone switchboards, as well as advocacy and educational services on the problems of youth.

HISTORY

In 1971, a Chicago-based volunteer agency named Metro-Help was formed to fill a need for comprehensive counseling and crisis intervention for youth in the Chicago metropolitan area. A consortium of community-based agencies with expertise in the delivery of youth services pooled their resources to act as a centralized organization with three distinct attributes:

- Round the clock availability
- Expertise in all youth-related issues
- Capacity to serve as an information and referral exchange

In 1974, in response to numerous murders of runaway youth, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act called for creation of a national communication system to help youth communicate with their parents and connect with youth-serving agencies. Metro-Help successfully completed a demonstration project and was awarded the federal grant that continues to fund the agency today.

In 1991, to more clearly define the mission and services of the organization, the agency's name was changed to the National Runaway Switchboard. The NRS continues to provide the three main objectives of the founding organization and has expanded its service to include much more.

CONTACT INFORMATION

National Runaway Switchboard
3080 North Lincoln Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60657

Telephone: (773) 880-9860
Facsimile: (773) 929-5150

Lora Thomas, Executive Director

Crisis Line: 1-800-621-4000
Website: www.nrscrisisline.org
E-mail: info@nrscrisisline.org

Agency &
Information: 1-800-344-2785
TDD: 1-800-621-3094

NRS CRISIS LINE SERVICES

CRISIS INTERVENTION

The NRS crisis line operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls to the crisis line are anonymous and confidential. It is the philosophy of the NRS to handle all calls in a non-judgmental and non-directive manner.

Volunteers and staff answering the crisis line use a five-step crisis intervention model and active listening skills. The crisis intervention model empowers callers to take control of their situation and devise their best solution for change. This intervention model includes the following steps: Establish Rapport, Explore Facts & Feelings, Focus on the Main Issue(s), Explore Options, Establish a Plan of Action.

MESSAGE SERVICE

The NRS message service allows runaways and their families to safely initiate communication. To place a message, either party calls the NRS and leaves a message for the other. If a parent (or legal guardian) leaves a message for their youth, the NRS will hold the message for them. Parents are instructed to let the youth's friends and relatives know that there is a message waiting for them, only a phone call away at the NRS. When a runaway leaves a message, the message for the parent is delivered as soon as possible by NRS volunteers or staff.

CONFERENCE CALLS

At the youth's request, and when appropriate, the NRS will conference calls from the crisis line to a third party. When conferencing to a parent or legal guardian, the NRS will act as a mediator to help the youth and their parent reestablish communication. The NRS remains unbiased and works to achieve a mutually beneficial plan of action. If a youth needs assistance from a community-based organization or agency, the NRS will call to ensure continuation of services. For youth suffering from abuse or neglect, the NRS can assist the youth in making a child abuse report no matter where they are in the US.

REFERRALS

The NRS offers a wealth of information, resources, and referrals including a computerized database of over 15,000 agencies and organizations that can be searched by service, city, and state. NRS' hard copy library contains an additional 120,000 resources. Referrals can be made for counseling, alternative housing, runaway shelters, substance abuse treatment, medical assistance, legal information, and child protective services. Agencies that would like to be added to the database should call the Agency and Information hotline at 1-800-344-2785.

HOME FREE

In October of 1995, the NRS joined forces with Greyhound Lines, Inc. to administer the Home Free program. This family reunification service offers free one-way tickets home for qualified runaway youth. The program has been a tremendous success and reunites over 200 runaway youth with their families each month.

In order to qualify, youth must be between the ages of 12-18, reported as a runaway with their hometown police department, and returning to their legal guardian who has given permission for their youth to travel. Home Free is a voluntary program.

All Home Free tickets must be initiated by the youth calling the NRS crisis line. The NRS will discuss the youth's situation and their motivation for running away. The youth's parent will be called and the NRS will mediate a discussion to develop a plan of action for the family. Referrals to community-based organizations will be offered. Once a runaway report has been verified, a ticket will be booked through Greyhound's main ticketing office and the youth can be escorted to the bus depot for their departure.

HIGHLIGHTS

Over 7,200 tickets have been issued.

Total value of tickets issued is over \$631,000.

90% of the youth receiving a Home Free ticket return home as scheduled

1998 STATISTICS

1708 Home Free tickets issued

60% of Home Free tickets are issued to females, 40% to males

Average age of a Home Free youth is 16 years old

93% of Home Free tickets issued are for interstate travel

Half of Home Free youth have run away at least once before

WEBSITE

In 1997, the NRS launched its website: www.nrscrisisline.org. The site receives over 15,000 hits every week.

FEATURES

Teen Info helps teens learn more about crisis intervention and what to expect when they call the crisis line. Look for the NRS list of ten questions teens should ask themselves before they run away.

Services for Parents includes resources and actions for parents whose children are thinking about running away, are on the run, or have returned home. "Family Communication Tips" and the family counseling sections provide useful information.

Links will help locate resources on-line for teens, parents, and agencies. Links are divided into national and regional sections.

Statistics reflect the demographics of NRS callers in the recent fiscal year. National and regional statistics can be downloaded for easy use.

Get on the Mailing List to receive NRS information via postal mail or email. People on the mailing list receive the NRS quarterly newsletter, *Frontline*, and other alerts and information.

Order Promotional Materials for your school, community group, place of employment, or youth group. All materials are free of charge.

Bulletin Board messages and questions can be left confidentially and will be answered within 72 hours.

AWARDS

The NRS website has received a great deal of attention and recognition. The website has received the following honors: Family World Village Site of the Week, True Style Award, Elite Site Award, Jayde Gold Diamond Award, Market-Tek Design Award and listed on Yahoo's and Netscape's "What's New" sections.