Dear Friends,

With the Thanksgiving holiday just past and National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM) formally ending, I feel a great sense of gratitude and pride for the work that the NRS team and our countless partners have done to “Shine a Light” on the experiences of runaway and homeless youth throughout the past month. In total, 122 individuals and organizations from over 35 states along with 10 youth ambassadors, served as official NRPM partners educating the public, sharing resources, and reminding youth in need that we are all here to support them.

We hope you were able to participate in several of the NRPM events and activities offered on a range of topics. Highlights included:

- Social media campaigns to digitally spread the word to our networks, including Facebook Profile Picture Day, Education Week, Wear Green Day, and a Twitter Chat that reached nearly 334,000 people.
- Lunch & Learn Series on two subjects: the Home Free program in collaboration with Greyhound Lines, Inc., and the power of film to amplify youth voices, featuring a conversation with a producer and a subject of the recently released documentary, American Street Kid.
- Light the Night Community Events, hosted by youth service agencies, community groups, and individuals across the country throughout the month to “Shine a Light” on the issues.

Even better, we’re not done yet! There are several ways you can still participate in NRPM and increase awareness among your network, including:

- Our final Lunch & Learn will take place this Thursday, December 3rd at 11:30 am CST, titled Runaway Prevention Strategies in a Virtual World: Using “Let’s Talk” Remotely.
- We will conclude our NRPM events with a Youth Roundtable on Tuesday, December 15th at 2:00 pm CST, where a panel of young people with lived experience will speak on issues affecting runaway and homeless youth.
• Donate to NRS! In lieu of a traditional, in-person fundraising event, we are asking our supporters to **Stay Safe. Stay Home. Donate Today.** Funds raised are critical to our efforts to keep runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets, and right now the NRS Board is supporting a Matching Gift campaign, where all donations will be matched by the Board up to $25,000. [You can donate by clicking here](https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Digital-Frontline--December-2020.html?soid=1131059093966&aid=quSB1o7USMw).

Thank you for all you have done to “Shine a Light” this National Runaway Prevention Month and all that you continue to do in support of runaway and homeless youth in our country.

With warm regards,

Susan Frankel  
Chief Executive Officer

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NRS?**

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**2020 NATIONAL RHY GRANTEES TRAINING INSTILLS HOPE**

Throughout the year, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) provides training and technical assistance to organizations in the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) community. Their landmark multi-day conference brings together professionals for speakers, workshops, networking opportunities, and exhibits.

The theme for the 2020 national training was “Building Futures of Hope for RHY.” Recognizing 2020 has been a year like no other for RHY programs and the youth they serve, the training promoted promising practices and evidence-informed responses to trauma.

The NRS team offered a formal presentation titled "Empowering & Engaging Youth in Crisis" to over 200 participants, and also led a networking session on National Runaway Prevention Month. We also staffed a virtual exhibit booth where our team engaged with meeting attendees, showed an NRPM video, and offered a downloadable goodie bag filled with items for NRPM partners.

Together we explored how we can partner with youth and young adults to create a positive future. We gained new ideas, perspectives, connections, and a renewed sense of hope.
EDUCATING OVER LUNCH

Our three-part Lunch & Learn Series has garnered interest from service providers and NRS supporters eager to learn more about our organization, programs, and the runaway and homeless youth community. In the first session, Adam Manlove, Region Vice President, Midwest at Greyhound Lines, Inc. and a member of the NRS Board of Directors, spoke with Susan Frankel about Home Free and how this longstanding partnership is helping prevent youth homelessness. Since 1995, NRS and Greyhound have provided more than 16,800 free bus tickets to runaway, homeless, and exploited youth.

Our second Lunch & Learn was titled “The Power of Film to Amplify Youth Voices” and featured a Q&A with Michelle Kaufer and Marquesha “Kiki” Babers. Michelle served as a producer of the new film, American Street Kid, which spotlights homeless youth and their daily struggle to survive on the streets of Los Angeles, and Kiki is featured in the film. There was an engaging discussion about the inadequacies of interventions and the lack of programs targeted specifically at youth experiencing homelessness.

Join us for our final Lunch & Learn, “Runaway Prevention, Strategies in a Virtual World: Using “Let’s Talk” Remotely” on December 3rd at 11:30 am CST. NRS Chief Program Officer, Lee Osipchak, will discuss the runaway prevention curriculum and how to effectively use all 14 modules in a remote setting.

SUPPORTING CHICAGO’S HOMELESS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Each year, NRS and Cubs Charities join together to host a Thanksgiving feast for approximately 100 Chicago-area homeless youth. This year, recognizing the City of Chicago’s restrictions pertaining to events, volunteers distributed boxed Thanksgiving meals from Smoke Daddy, along with hygiene kits containing hand sanitizers, lip balm, lotion, a facemask and a personal note to shelters throughout the city and the nearby suburb of Evanston on Tuesday, November 24th.

Nearly 350 homeless youth received both food and kits, and approximately 135 adults were given a Thanksgiving meal, delivered to ten shelters in 18 locations.

We thank Cubs Charities and their volunteers, as well as employees of Vibes, who created handwritten notes for inclusion in the hygiene kits. We hope our collective efforts have helped make the holiday a little easier for those in need this year.
YOUTH IN THE NEWS

BOSTON HOUSES MORE THAN 100 YOUNG PEOPLE IN FIRST YEAR OF ANTI-HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE

Boston, MA | As reported on WBUR-FM, more than 100 young adults experiencing homelessness were successfully housed in the past year since Boston launched an initiative to combat youth homelessness.

City officials say people from more than 100 public and private organizations and Boston's Youth Action Board - a group of teens and young adults who've experienced housing instability or homelessness - have worked together on the initiative.

Bernise Martinez, 23, is one of those housed through the initiative. She moved into an apartment in Cambridge, MA with three roommates in July after being housed through a rapid re-housing program through Bridge Over Troubled Waters in Boston.

ACROSS THE U.S., FEWER STUDENTS ARE BEING IDENTIFIED AS HOMELESS.

As reported by non-profit news organization, Chalkbeat, across the country, school staff are seeing a "shocking drop" in the number of students who are identified as homeless and are therefore entitled to critical support from their school.

Advocates worry this means many children are going without access to things like food, health care referrals, and laundry services. They also worry this could indicate many students are not enrolled in school at all right now.