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## GREETINGS FROM NRS

Dear Friends,

This month, we are pleased to present our [2019 Crisis Services and Prevention Report](#), developed in collaboration with [Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago](#) and the [Family & Youth Services Bureau \(FYSB\)](#). This report highlights demographic data on those reaching out to NRS for support, the issues leading to their outreach, along with their method of contact. It provides critical information about the needs of youth who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless. If you work directly with runaway, homeless or at-risk youth, I particularly encourage you to review this report for findings that may be useful in your own work. Look out for the 2020 report, which we expect to be able to share with you in the late summer-early fall.

The month of May is [Foster Care Awareness Month](#), an opportunity to draw attention to the important role that foster care providers play in the lives of youth, as well as the issues faced by young people in the foster care system. [According to Chapin Hall](#), many young people who experience homelessness have spent time in foster care. Chapin Hall offers several approaches to reducing incidents of homelessness following foster care, including trauma-informed services, support for reunified or adoptive families, and improving preparation for independent living. There is much that still needs to be done to reduce the link between foster care and youth homelessness, with increased awareness of the issue being a key first step.

May is also [Mental Health Awareness Month](#), the theme for which is 'You Are Not Alone'. One of the key messages that we impart on the young people and families who reach out to us is that they are not alone, and that we are here to support them regardless of their situation. As a society, we have come a long way in reducing mental health stigma, but there is still so much to be done. Barriers to mental health services are still prevalent, making access to adequate care extremely difficult for already marginalized populations. I encourage you all to use this month to share your story, and [work to further reduce the stigma and barriers to access in your communities](#).

With warm regards,



Susan Frankel  
Chief Executive Officer

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NRS?



### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH TWITTER CHAT

Hosted by the National Center for  
Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)  
and Thorn

At the end of April, NRS had the opportunity to participate in an important conversation on child abuse prevention through a live Twitter Chat. We hope this conversation will continue all year long to ensure the safety of youth in our communities. If you missed this conversation, the questions and NRS' answers are posted on our website at the link below.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Our Volunteer of the Month series is back! And how better to restart our recognition of our generous volunteers than with someone supporting the organization from outside the state of Illinois. While the pandemic has led to so many challenges, it has also created new opportunities for NRS, including our ability to engage volunteers beyond the Chicago area.

This month's Volunteer of the Month is Carlyn, who lives in Dumas, TX. Carlyn has brought so much energy and dedication to the Crisis Services Center. We are very lucky to have her on our team!

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## RUNAWAY REALITY - NAOMI

Naomi reached out to NRS because she was having a really difficult time at home and was considering running away. Her parents were giving her so many chores that her grades were slipping. They couldn't understand that her work load was too high.

NRS helped her come up with a plan to make her situation better. Read our full blog post to learn more about how NRS was able to help!

[Click Here to Read More](#)



## NRS IS HIRING!

Are you looking for a fulfilling career that allows you to help runaway, homeless and at-risk youth and their families? NRS is currently hiring for several positions across the organization.

For full-time positions, benefits include health, dental and vision insurance, generous PTO, flexible scheduling, and more. We look forward to your application!

[Click Here to Learn More and Apply](#)

## YOUTH IN THE NEWS



### 51% of young Americans say they feel down, depressed or hopeless

"In June 2020, the CDC released data that suggests one in four adults ages 18 to 24 have



### Local initiatives to end youth homelessness find success, despite COVID restrictions

**Fairmont, W. Va** | "...though youth homelessness, ages 18 to 24, nationally only makes up about 8% of the homeless

considered suicide. And according to the recently released Harvard Youth Poll, of 2,513 Americans ages 18 to 29, 51% of young Americans said that at least several days in the previous two weeks they had felt down, depressed or hopeless.

'There's been this narrative that young people are spared a lot of the impact of Covid because they're less likely to develop real severe physical complications,' says Ellen Burstein, one of the poll's lead researchers and a junior at Harvard. 'But it's taken a profound toll on their mental health.' "

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population, this population is more likely to experience homelessness again in their lifetime because they have a lack of experience living on their own.

'When you're working with an individual that is maybe, for example, 50 years old that...they have that lived experience of understanding how to budget and manage their own tenancy,' explained Lauren Frederick, Policy Development Officer at [the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness], 'but when we're working with youth that are coming directly out of the state system, they're often lacking living skills and...the understanding of how to maintain a lease and pay your rent.' "

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Keeping America's  
runaway, homeless  
and at-risk youth safe  
and off the streets.



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