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Dear Friends,

Earlier this month, the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) hosted an in-depth conversation with an expert panel of young people who have lived experience with homelessness. Their first-hand knowledge and perspective provided critical insight and an essential voice for what works (and what doesn't) within the runaway and homeless youth continuum of services. We plan to continue this conversation, exploring lessons learned and key recommendations for future program development. A summary of this work, including a highlight of next steps for preventing and eliminating youth homelessness will be available in late Fall.

A consistent message shared by the youth panel focused on the importance of connections to community for preventing and ending youth homelessness. Overwhelmingly, the impact that a particular agency, or a caseworker, or an outreach worker had in providing a more stable and sustainable future for young people experiencing homelessness was evident. Young people who have strong relationships, surrounded by trustworthy adults and peers, are less likely to engage in unsafe behaviors that lead to youth homelessness and other related challenges in the first place.

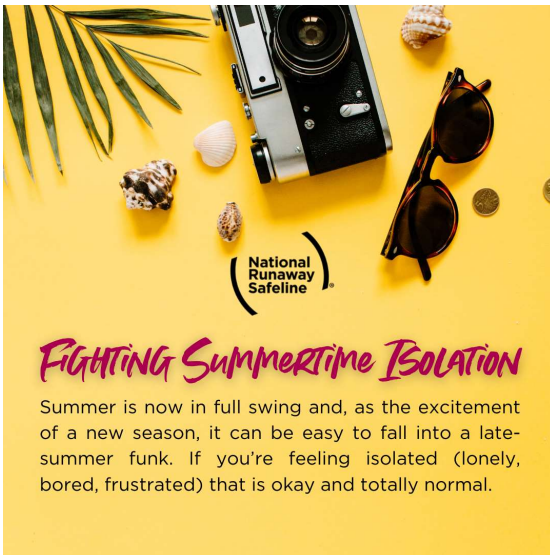
July is Social Wellness Month, highlighting the positive impact of community and strong relationships as key protective factors for adolescents. We know that Social Wellness Month is more relevant and vital now than ever before following the social isolation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, 71% of the youth who reached out to NRS were still at home - providing NRS and our partner agencies thousands of opportunities for preventing youth homelessness. We know that NRS is made stronger by the thousands of local, regional and national partnerships that we are committed to fostering, maintaining and growing. By working together collectively to provide young people with the resources and supports they need, we know that we will be most successful in finding ways to reduce and ultimately end youth homelessness.

With warm regards,

Susan Frankel

Susan Frankel
Chief Executive Officer

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NRS?



FIGHTING SUMMERTIME ISOLATION

Summer is now in full swing and, as the excitement of a new season, it can be easy to fall into a late-summer funk. If you're feeling isolated (lonely, bored, frustrated) that is okay and totally normal.

FIGHTING SUMMERTIME ISOLATION

Tips for Young People to Feel Connected

As the excitement of a new season wears off, it can be easy to fall into a funk. You might even feel guilty, feeling like you *should* be having fun! But it's very possible to feel loneliness and isolation, no matter the time of year.

In our newest blog post, we've provided some simple ways to help young people find connection and social interaction. Share it with someone who you think it could help!

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"I researched what it is that NRS did exactly and thought that it sounded like a great fit for me. Young people deserve to have a place to call and make a plan or get resources, if life at home was making them want to leave. I've been very fortunate in my life and NRS felt like a great place to volunteer to give back in a meaningful way."

Rachel, Volunteer of the Month - July 2021

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month's Volunteer of the Month is Rachel! Since joining NRS in 2019, Rachel has logged nearly 250 hours helping youth in need. Already, only about halfway through 2021, she has more than doubled her hours from last year!

Check out our Q&A to learn more about Rachel and why NRS is important to her. We are so grateful for her dedication, as well as the support of all of our incredible volunteer body.

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RUNAWAY REALITY - JOHNNY

Johnny was having trouble communicating with his mom. When he reached out to NRS, he felt like he had no choice but to run away.

While Johnny's situation may not seem as extreme as other crisis contacts we receive, Johnny reaching out while still at home highlights the importance of our prevention work, where our crisis services team can effectively help youth and families resolve crises before they escalate to a potentially dangerous situation.

Read this month's Runaway Reality to learn how NRS was able to support Johnny.

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JOIN THE NRS ASSOCIATE BOARD

The NRS Associate Board is a group of young professionals who help raise funds and spread the word about the work we do. Members receive valuable experience, networking opportunities, and the chance to make a real difference in their communities.

The Associate Board is inviting new members at this time, as the Board looks to grow and represent communities across the country. If you or someone you know is interested, please email AssociateBoard@1800RUNAWAY.org for information on how to apply.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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YOUTH IN THE NEWS



It's important to hear and learn from youth experiencing homelessness

Minneapolis, MN | "Thanks to [Youthprise](#), [MinnPost was] able to interview 32 of the thousands of [homeless youth in the Twin Cities] in an attempt to humanize their experiences, and hopefully, encourage effective action..."

In 2019, the Minnesota Department of Education found that, based on district and charter reports, more than 8,000 children and youth were homeless, using a single day's measure (the number over a year probably is two to three times higher.)"

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Analysis: Most states not ready to tackle youth mental health ahead of fall

"A Tuesday [report from advocacy group Mental Health America \(MHA\)](#), says that a majority of states are not ready to address youth mental health as schools prepare to reopen for in-person learning in the fall.

The analysis reports that just 14 states have fully expanded Medicaid to cover mental health services in schools, and only a handful have legislation requiring mental health education.

The lack of access and education make the states unprepared to deal with mental health issues among children, which were exacerbated by the pandemic, the report said."

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



Here To Listen,
Here To Help

If you are in crisis
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CONNECT WITH US



LEARN MORE ABOUT US
VISIT [nationalrunawaysafeline.org](#)