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GREETINGS FROM NRS

Dear Friends,

As November comes to a close, we could not be more proud of the collective success of this year's National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM), a success that would not have been possible without the contributions of our 140 national partners from 126 organizations across the country.

We hope you were able to participate in some of the NRPM events and activities throughout the month, including Education Week, Wear Green Day, the Lunch & Learn series, or the Twitter Chat that



reached nearly 334,000 people! In communities across the U.S., youth service agencies, community groups, and individuals celebrated **Light the Night** by lighting monuments, buildings, bridges, and much more in green in honor of NRPM. As an example, see the above picture of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum lit green in Springfield, IL.

And the best part is that NRPM isn't over yet! There are several ways you can still participate and increase awareness across your networks: share content on social media using #NRPM2021, listen to our new *Let's Talk* podcast series, and register for our final Lunch & Learn conversation on November 30th. Please visit our *website* for all of the details.

While the month of November annually marks the recognition of NRPM, it is important to recognize that NRS and our thousands of partners around the country work tirelessly 365 days a year to ensure that young people experiencing homelessness or facing a myriad of challenges and crises have the support, resources and access to services they need.

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 youth experiencing homelessness or who have run away in our country.

With warm regards,



Susan Frankel
Chief Executive Officer

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NRS?



Launch of the *Let's Talk* Podcast Series

As part of National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM), NRS has launched a new podcast series, *Let's Talk*. The series aims to elevate the voices of young people as they share their stories and highlight the complexities and intersections faced by the 4.2 million young people experiencing homelessness across the United States each year.

Hosted by NRS Prevention & Youth Engagement Coordinator Maria Taylor, the series launched with a brief conversation with NRS CEO Susan Frankel, detailing Susan's journey in the youth advocacy field, and providing background on the history and importance of NRPM.

Since that initial interview, new episodes have launched each Tuesday throughout November, featuring young people with lived experience sharing their stories and perspectives. While weekly episodes will conclude at the end of November, the *Let's Talk* podcast series will continue well beyond NRPM.

Click Here to Listen



Youth in Crisis: What the Data is Telling Us

Our NRPM Lunch & Learn series is a highlight of our national events during the month of November. We partner with organizations across the country to lead sessions on topics impacting youth-serving organizations and other NRPM partners.

During this year's NPRM Lunch & Learn series, we offered a conversation led by the National Network for Youth, Building Strong Collaborative Relationships to End Youth Homelessness: Driving Systemic Change at the Local Level. Our second Lunch & Learn featured SchoolHouse Connection in a session titled, The Role of Schools in Runaway & Prevention Response.

We invite you to join us for our final Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, November 30th at 2:00PM EST. This conversation, *Youth in Crisis: What the Data is Telling Us,* will review key findings from the 2020 NRS Crisis Services and Prevention Report, and will help us to consider the implications of these findings on the prevention and intervention strategies implemented by organizations and agencies serving vulnerable youth.

Interested in attending? Click below to learn more and to register.



NRS & Cubs Charities Partner to Feed Chicago's Homeless Youth

For the past 21 years, the Chicago Cubs Charities and NRS have partnered to host a Thanksgiving feast for young people experiencing homelessness in the Chicago community. Last year, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, we adjusted the event's format and ended up delivering over 450 meals and hygiene kits to 18 shelters across the city, serving more young people than ever before.

We are continuing the tradition this year on Tuesday, November 23rd, in partnership with Smoke Daddy in Wrigleyville to once again provide Thanksgiving meals and hygiene kits, and a personal note to shelters throughout the Chicagoland area.

We are so grateful to <u>Cubs Charities</u> for their continued partnership and to <u>Smoke Daddy</u> for their commitment to serving our local community.



Support 50 Years of NRS this Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday, which falls each year on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, is a special day "that unleashes the power of radical generosity around the world."

Taking place next Tuesday, November 30th, we invite you to support the National Runaway Safeline's 50th anniversary and help us in our continued efforts to keep runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets.

Whether by reuniting families through our Home Free program, providing compassionate, non-judgmental crisis services, or offering referrals from our national database, we're here 24/7/365 as a critical resource for young people and their families. You can help us make a difference in their lives by donating today!

Every dollar counts - there's no support too big or too small. So join in and support NRS as a sign of your radical generosity.

Click Here to Donate

YOUTH IN THE NEWS





Peer-led mental health program lets students know they're not alone

Palo Alto, CA | "When Emily Yao first joined Youth Connect during her sophomore year at Palo Alto High School, she thought it would be a good way to complete the community service hours required to graduate, but what she didn't realize at first was the personal impact that the organization would ultimately have on her.

Now a senior, Yao is still involved in the program, which focuses on youth mental health, and said the experience has given her the tools to support her peers, provided clarity on her own mental health and made her realize she wants to pursue mental health advocacy as part of her eventual career path.

"It just felt like the students' voices were really valued in a way that I had never felt before," Yao said...."

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COVID relief for thousands of foster youth has expired. Will lawmakers renew it?

"Former foster children are among the most vulnerable people during the pandemic. They already are at greater risk for homelessness and living in poverty, advocates said, especially those who aged out during the pandemic.

A federal COVID-19 relief package *passed in Dec. 2020* helped support more than 40,000 former foster youth, according to Think of Us, a national think tank that focuses on child welfare policy. The measure included extra stimulus money and expanded benefits that helped them survive during the pandemic.

That assistance, however, ended on September 30th and left many former foster youth facing new challenges as the pandemic continues. Foster children age out of foster care at 18, but in most states they can *stay in the system* until they are 21, and some have extended "aftercare" for a few more years..."

Click to Read the Full Article



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