



# DIGITAL FRONTLINE

A stylized illustration of a young woman with long brown hair, wearing a green t-shirt, blue shorts, and red high-heeled shoes. She is holding a mobile phone to her ear and looking thoughtful.

## Greetings from NRS

Dear Friends,

Young people experiencing homelessness regularly endure threats to their safety, health, and well-being. In fact, research has shown, when compared to their peers in the general population, they are more likely to miss school, struggle with mental health issues, abuse alcohol or drugs, be trafficked, and be physically or sexually assaulted.

Experts agree that youth homelessness is preventable and can be addressed effectively by policymakers, funders, service providers, and communities with interventions that **capitalize upon young people's strengths and provide adequate support and resources**.

Each day, our team at the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) provides support to youth who are considering running away and those who are experiencing housing instability. As a supplement to our 24/7 crisis intervention services and educational programs, we spearhead **National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM) each November**.

This public awareness campaign is supported by the Family and Youth Services Bureau as well as hundreds of partners and Youth Ambassadors across the country. This massive effort is designed to raise awareness about youth homelessness, educate the public about the role they can play in preventing and ending youth homelessness, and increase visibility of the critical services offered and resources available to vulnerable youth nationwide.

Through NRPM, we remind youth experiencing homelessness that they are not alone and that communities everywhere are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being.

Each year, **NRPM continues to grow in size and impact**, as we involve more partners, deepen the engagement of Youth Ambassadors, and develop more effective strategies to meet our campaign objectives. Youth, adults and communities enthusiastically lend their voices to this awareness-building campaign – **and we invite you to join the movement, too**. Register as an NRPM partner [here](#) and/or encourage young people to register as Youth Ambassadors [here](#).

Together we can make a difference in the lives of young people. We appreciate your continued support of NRS and look forward to collaborating with you during National Runaway Prevention Month.

With warm regards,

Susan Frankel  
Chief Executive Officer

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NRS

### NRS Youth Advisory Board Engages in Professional Development Opportunities and Discussions with National Leaders



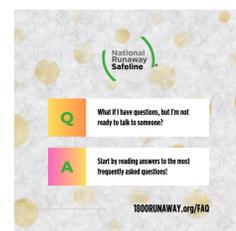
The **National Runaway Safeline Youth Advisory Board (YAB)** and the **Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)** recently came together for a two-day meeting at NRS' offices in Chicago. YAB members represent a variety of communities across the U.S. and bring invaluable insights, expertise and lived experience with youth homelessness and the systems designed to provide support and services for this population.

These current and future leaders met to discuss the issues, challenges and barriers facing young people experiencing homelessness; the complexities of navigating systems of care i.e., mental health, health care and child welfare; and discussed solutions for implementing broad sweeping reforms to these systems.

As part of this event, YAB members also met jointly with the NRS national Board of Directors to discuss their respective roles, objectives and responsibilities for assisting NRS with meeting the current needs of the young people and families we serve.

The multi-day meeting concluded with an animated, productive workshop led by creative agency and a key NRS partner, Ideas

### Top Social Media Posts



United. YAB members sharpened their story-telling and self-advocacy skills building their personal and professional resumes and experiences.

NRS remains committed to ensuring that young people are part of all aspects of our work. Embracing the youth voice, particularly those with lived experience, and integrating it into all areas of our organization is a key priority. To learn more about the NRS Youth Advisory Board, including how to get involved, please click the link below!

[Learn about the NRS Youth Advisory Board](#)



### **Help Raise Awareness of Youth Homelessness: Support National Runaway Prevention Month**

Recognized every November, **National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM)** is a public awareness campaign designed to “shine a light” on the experiences of youth who have run away and those experiencing homelessness.

In support of NRPM, **hundreds of organizations and youth** join together with **NRS and the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)** to raise awareness about youth homelessness, educate the public about the role they can play in preventing and ending youth homelessness, and increase visibility of the critical services offered to vulnerable youth nationwide.

The NRPM community is creative, bold, and passionate -- **and we invite you to be a part of it!** Register [HERE](#) to become an NRPM partner and to help amplify the voices of the 4.2 million young people who experience homelessness each year in the United States.

As an NRPM partner, you’ll receive support and guidance during partner calls; resources such as toolkits; and materials, including social media graphics and commitment card templates to help ensure your local campaign is successful.

The first partner call – An Introduction to NRPM – will be held on Thursday, Sept. 7 at 1 p.m. EST. Register [HERE](#) to confirm your spot and receive the Zoom link.

The campaign's success relies on caring adults as well as young people who serve as NRPM Youth Ambassadors. *NRPM Youth Ambassadors can make a measurable impact on their peers and the broader public.* NRPM Youth Ambassadors speak with local media, present to their classmates and at local events, spread the word about youth homelessness on social media and organize community-based opportunities.

Register [HERE](#) to be an NRPM Youth Ambassador. Please help us build this network by sharing this information with the young people you know!

We're looking forward to making #NRPM2023 a giant success and hope we can count on you!

[Learn More About NRPM](#)

## NRS Blog



The start of the school year is upon us, bringing with it a mix of excitement and uncertainty. Whether you're a student returning to your familiar classrooms or starting at a new school, the back to school transition can stir a range of emotions in any of us.

To help prepare you for that first day and beyond, we're sharing tips on how to tackle the changes and enjoy the school year.

The team of staff and trained volunteers at the National Runaway Safeline is available 24/7 to provide you with free, confidential support and guidance. No

## Let's Talk Podcast



In the latest episode of the Let's Talk podcast, we speak with Sharday Hamilton, National Runaway Safeline Youth Advisory Board Fellow and a homeless youth advocate. Years ago, Sharday was living in her mother's abandoned home with her newborn when her neighbors reported her to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

We discuss her courageous personal story, the barriers to seeking help, and how The Night Ministry assisted Sharday in setting goals and ensuring she was aware of resources available to help her

pressure and no judgement.

[Read More Here](#)

family.

Stream the Let's Talk podcast on your favorite podcasting platform!

[Listen Here](#)

## YOUTH IN THE NEWS

News Channel 3

### **Palm Desert High School students produce a human trafficking awareness video**

Students from Palm Desert High School have produced an original video to combat human trafficking.

Titled "Waiting By The Phone," it was written, directed and edited by students from the Desert Sands Unified School District school to create awareness by identifying warning signs that students might not otherwise recognize.

[Read the Full Article](#)



### **National Network for Youth Federal Definitions of Homelessness Should Not Be Different**

U.S. Representatives Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ-11),



Bill Posey (R-FL-08), Delia Ramirez (D-IL-03), and Don Bacon (R-NE-02) reintroduced the Homeless Children and Youth Act (HCYA) on August 15, 2023. This legislation would change how HUD defines homelessness so that more children, youth, and families can access the housing assistance they need.

Our friends at the National Network for Youth are sharing detailed information about the legislation and have created resources, including a social media toolkit and an HYCA fact sheet, so you can get involved and help ensure this bill is passed.

Get involved using the link below:

[Read the Full Article](#)

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