



DIGITAL FRONTLINE



Greetings from NRS

Dear Friends,

Well, 2024 has already been a bit of a whirlwind for the NRS team! A belated Happy New Year as we continue to be so grateful for our supporters who helped make our 2023 year-end fundraising campaign a success. Your generosity enables us to provide crisis intervention services to youth and families 24/7, offer free prevention and outreach tools to individuals and organizations, conduct trainings and more.

We have recently launched a recruitment effort to expand the NRS Youth Advisory Board (YAB). These passionate youth advocates contribute ideas and perspectives to help shape NRS services and elevate the national conversation about youth homelessness. If you know someone who is 16-23 years old, has lived experience with running away, housing instability or homelessness and would like to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable youth, and you/they would like more information about the YAB and how to apply please visit the [NRS website](#). For questions, please contact [Sharday Hamilton](#), Prevention and Youth Engagement Coordinator.

Finally, we are excited to share the [2022 Crisis Services & Prevention Report](#). Developed in collaboration with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago and the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), this report features an analysis of voluntarily reported data collected from crisis contacts in 2022 as well as trends in NRS's social media activities. The findings provide critical information about the needs of youth who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless, how NRS and other youth-serving organizations can best meet the needs of youth in crisis and those who care about them, and when and how individuals engage with NRS on social media. Details on accessing the report are highlighted below.

Again, we thank you for your support and look forward to pursuing new opportunities and celebrating many accomplishments throughout 2024.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Frankel".

Susan Frankel
Chief Executive Officer

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NRS

Save the Date: Celebrating the Spirit of Youth 2024



Join us for the National Runaway Safeline's annual fundraising event - Celebrating the Spirit of Youth - on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in Chicago, IL. Our theme, "One Call Away," reflects the National Runaway Safeline's distinctive role as a lifeline accessible to communities across the country. This promises to be an unforgettable evening filled with inspiration and compassion as we gather to support NRS's mission.

Event details, including exciting program highlights, will be coming your way soon. Your presence and support make a meaningful impact, and we look forward to celebrating with you on this special night. Stay tuned for updates, and mark your calendars for an event dedicated to making a positive difference!

[Celebrating the Spirit of Youth 2023 Photos](#)

2022 Crisis Services & Prevention Report



The National Runaway Safeline's 2022 Crisis Services & Prevention Report, developed in collaboration with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago and supported by the Family and Youth Services Bureau, delves into the data and trends observed in crisis intervention services. In a snapshot, over 4 million young people aged 13-25 experience homelessness annually in the U.S., emphasizing the critical need for NRS's 1-800-RUNAWAY hotline, text and online services. The report examines the demographics of those reaching out, prevalent issues such as family dynamics and mental health that warranted crisis intervention, referral options discussed, and the impact of NRS's social media engagement. Noteworthy trends post-pandemic include shifts in age demographics, contact methods, and presenting problems. NRS continues to play a vital role in providing crucial resources and support to youth facing crises or homelessness.

[Review this Report](#)

[NRS Blog](#)

[NRS on YouTube & TikTok](#)

NATIONAL
**HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**
PREVENTION MONTH



As we stepped into a new year, January held more than the promise of resolutions. The month of January is a clarion call to confront a pervasive crisis: National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This presidentially-designated annual awareness campaign, led by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), unites youth-facing service providers and communities through education about human trafficking and the roles we all play in protecting vulnerable youth.

The 2024 theme, "Activate Connections to Prevent Human Trafficking," was a stark reminder: This fight isn't for the solitary hero. It's a collective struggle, demanding connections that safeguard and uplift those at risk or already ensnared in human trafficking's grip.

Let's not just raise awareness, let's activate our connections and turn the tide in this crucial fight.

[Read More Here](#)



NRS continues to take big steps to authentically connect with our audience. In an era where youth focus is dominated by digital platforms, it is increasingly important to reach out to youth in ways and places that resonate with them.

The NRS YouTube channel and TikTok account serve as vital platforms for highlighting the real stories of youth who have run away from home, lived on the streets, and endured other challenges. We are proud to have posted new videos that provide a glimpse into the lives of young people who have navigated through difficult circumstances, sharing their unique perspectives, struggles, and, most importantly, their triumphs.

Since 2023, we have shared long- and short-form videos featuring brave youth who willingly relayed their stories and encouraged youth who need help to seek support. Follow along, and subscribe to get alerts for new content!

[Follow NRS Here](#)

YOUTH IN THE NEWS

[The Trevor Project](#)

Research Brief: Perceived Life Expectancy and Life Purpose in LGBTQ+

Young People

The Trevor Project's study underscores the critical influence of perceived life expectancy and life purpose on the mental well-being of LGBTQ+ youth. Demographic variations in perceived life expectancy and its impact on mental health outcomes are highlighted, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to address these factors. Additionally, the study establishes a positive relationship between life purpose and mental health, with higher life purpose correlating with lower rates of suicide attempts among LGBTQ+ youth.



[Read the Full Brief](#)

[YouthToday.org](https://www.youthtoday.org)

Atlanta Homeless Youth Program Helps Students Attend College

In a city where thousands of youth face homelessness, the story of Jay Lee, a 23-year-old college student in Atlanta, unveils the hidden struggles of those navigating academia without a stable residence. Despite overcoming challenges like aging out of the foster care system and dealing with the juvenile justice system, Lee aspires to become a photographer and is pursuing a major in design and media at Atlanta Technical College.

The article delves into the support systems available for homeless students, highlighting Covenant House Georgia, a youth shelter in Atlanta, and the vital services it provides, including case management, mental health support, and career services. With an estimated 3,372 homeless teenagers and young adults in Atlanta, the piece sheds light on the pervasive issue and underscores the significance of programs like Covenant House Georgia in offering crucial assistance to those facing homelessness while pursuing education.



[Read the Full Article](#)

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