



# DIGITAL FRONTLINE

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

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## Greetings from NRS

Dear Friends,

Having celebrated Thanksgiving with family and friends last week, I'm still feeling a deep sense of **gratitude and hope**. Through my work with the National Runaway Safeline (NRS), I recognize how fortunate I am to have a supportive network to lean on at any time. Sadly, far too many people, including hundreds of thousands of youth across the U.S., do not have cheerleaders in their corner or a safe place to call home.

At NRS, our community of **staff, volunteers, partner organizations, donors, board members, and Youth Advisory Board members** are committed to supporting the young people and families who reach out for help every day.

This power of community was evident throughout November, through National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM). With **more than 215 unique partner organizations and individuals and nearly 50 Youth Ambassadors**, the NRPM community worked tirelessly to shine a light on the issues facing youth experiencing homelessness or who have run away.

While it's impossible to spotlight all of the incredible activities that were executed during NRPM 2023 in this newsletter, here are a few highlights:

- Buildings and bridges were **lit in green (the color of NRPM)**, including dozens in New York City and throughout New York state, several in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Willis Tower in Chicago, Reunion Tower in Dallas, and many more.
- City and state officials – from Vancouver, Washington to LaCrosse, Wisconsin to Salisbury, Maryland – issued **proclamations** recognizing November as National Runaway Prevention Month.
- **Traditional media outlets**, such as the *Dallas Morning News* and KTLA's "Good Day LA," educated audiences about youth homelessness.
- **Social media platforms** were flooded with NRPM information, graphics, and photos.
- Partners and Youth Ambassadors executed creative **events and activities**, such as resource fairs, wellness fairs, sleep outs, a silent disco fundraiser, candlelight vigils, a community walk and rally, "Day of Action to End Youth Homelessness" at the Pennsylvania State Capitol, a Glow Walk, and so much more.
- **Youth Ambassadors** distributed information, hygiene kits, and other items at youth

homelessness awareness events and posted videos on TikTok.

- On **Wear Green Day**, police departments, office staffs, pets, and others dressed in all shades of green to show vulnerable youth they are not alone.
- Our **Social Media Live** engaged people in a thoughtful online conversation about reaching youth where they are, involving community partners in the Runaway and Homeless Youth network, and more.

We are grateful to everyone who participated in National Runaway Prevention Month activities. You helped make this year's campaign an enormous success and are truly making a difference in the lives of so many young people.

Our team is closing out this milestone month at the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) National Grantee Training in Seattle. Hosted by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC), this annual event features training opportunities, networking, and workshops for RHY grantees and members of the youth services field, including youth and young adults. We are thrilled to be in this space with so many incredible providers and teams who are working alongside one another to work towards a world without youth homelessness.

I want to additionally express my gratitude to the remarkable National Runaway Safeline community for their unwavering support of our mission. Your dedication plays a crucial role in delivering life-saving services to young individuals, fostering a future where every youth has the necessary safety and support. Thank you wholeheartedly for your steadfast belief in this vision. If you are able to, we would greatly appreciate a donation of any amount to our work today.

**SUPPORT YOUTH IN CRISIS TODAY!**

With warm regards,



Susan Frankel  
Chief Executive Officer

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NRS

### NRPM Partners Spotlighthed on NRS Blog



Since its inception in 2010, more than 7,000 youth and families in Los Angeles County have benefited from Sanctuary of Hope's (SOH's) prevention and stabilization services and activism and advocacy activities.

"We provide guidance, support and tools to get

### Top Social Media Posts

youth back on their feet,” says Janet Kelly, founder and executive director of SOH. “For example, we work closely with families to resolve conflict, digging into the issues and addressing the root causes of why a young person left home. Our goal is to improve the lines of communication, which ultimately reduces tensions and fosters stronger relationships.”

For more information about SOH, visit [thesoh.org](http://thesoh.org).



Compass Charter Schools is a virtual, independent study public charter school serving thousands of scholars TK-grade 12 in California.

The McKinney-Vento Program at Compass offers a multitude of resources for scholars and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. This program ensures that children and youth experiencing homelessness are protected with the rights to enroll or stay in school, even when housing becomes uncertain.

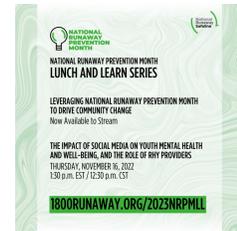


Avenues for Youth recognizes that while most youth experiencing homelessness have faced trauma, they are each unique. They have unique needs, experiences, abilities and aspirations. Each individual is on a personal journey through homelessness and, hopefully, on a path to a bright future.



As Advocates for Children in northwest Georgia celebrates the organization’s 40th anniversary, the team takes pride in their countless accomplishments, including client success stories, new and expanded programs and the purchase and renovation of their new headquarters where all prevention, education and advocacy programs are now under one roof.

[Visit the NRS Blog](#)



[Volunteer of the Month](#)

[Let's Talk Podcast](#)

# CLAUDIA V.

Our October Volunteer of the Month is Claudia V. She is a dedicated paralegal based in New York City where she resides and works. Her passion for continuous learning shines through her proactive approach to attending court cases beyond her immediate involvement, seizing every opportunity to enhance her knowledge and skills. She will tell you that she's equally excited about being a true NYC foodie, and thinks that food is one of the greatest things NY has to offer. Though she has a tough time deciding, her favorite cuisines are Italian and Mediterranean.

Her interest in understanding the complexities of human trafficking propelled her interest in volunteering with the National Runaway Safeline. Claudia shared that it has always been difficult for her to conceptualize how young people end up in these situations, but over the years she has come to the conclusion that there is no simple answer. She now realizes that each situation is unique, and she understands that it is more common for a young person to find themselves in unfortunate circumstances than many people might believe. Claudia started volunteering as a way to learn the best ways to help people experiencing crisis.

Having joined NRS as a volunteer in 2021, Claudia has been volunteering weekly and spreading awareness ever



In support of National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM), each week in November, we release an episode of the Let's Talk podcast. These episodes feature program leaders and clinical professionals who work for partner organizations.

The first NRPM episode, which features Susan Frankel, NRS Chief Executive Office, and Melanie Hill, Chair of the NRS Board of Directors, explores how NRS has grown since NRPM 2022. Susan shares ways we've invested in our Youth Advisory Board, while Melanie discusses the importance of corporate social responsibility.

Episode 2 in the NRPM series is a conversation with Genoris Bridges, Adolescent Program Director with the [Christopher Youth Center](#) in Monroe, LA. Genoris breaks down the role of parents/guardians who are seeking behavioral health services for a young person in their care.

Following the conversation with Genoris, we talk with Natalie White from [Sally Kate Winters Family Services](#) in Mississippi. Natalie shares insights on how today's youth view trauma and dysfunction, and the benefits of family counseling when young people are ready.

In episode 4, we are joined by Nancy Mullen and Carolyn Wahlskog from [Youth Outlook](#) in Illinois. We discuss

since. Friends often ask if Claudia knows she's helping people. For Claudia, the true reward comes from knowing that she is probably one of the first people who many youth reach out to for help. Claudia says that this puts her, and other volunteers, in a unique position to ensure young people are not met with judgment or expectations.

Read more about Claudia on the [NRS Blog!](#)

[Read More Here](#)

supporting youth who identify as LGBTQIA2S+ and their families, particularly in the face of violent threats.

In the final episode of Season 5, we talk with Margaret Windham, Executive Director of [Cafe Momentum](#), about their paid internship program for justice-involved youth and how the organization helps youth gain self-confidence and learn marketable skills to ensure a more successful future.

All Season 5 episodes of the "Let's Talk" podcast are now available [here](#), or wherever you stream podcasts!

[Listen Here](#)

## YOUTH IN THE NEWS

[CBS42.co](#)

### Local non-profit helps combat homelessness for Birmingham women and children with free childcare program

"BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (WIAT) — November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month, and local organizations are finding ways to break the cycle of chronic homelessness in the Birmingham area.

Pathways, located in the heart of



Birmingham, offers various programs that provide hygiene care, classes, meals and emergency shelter. These services are offered through their Day Center, Stepping Stones program and Safe Haven program.

The Annual Homeless Assessment Report estimates Alabama had 3,752 homeless people in 2022. 5% of that number were unaccompanied youth."

[Watch Full News Segment Here](#)

[WTRF.com](http://WTRF.com)

## Youth Services Systems holds Wheeling Sleep Out to raise awareness of homeless youth



"WHEELING, W.Va. (WTRF) – Youth Services System's Wheeling Sleep Out fundraiser is back once again for 2023. The Sleep Out is the organization's signature fundraiser for its Transitional Living Program

It provides housing, life skills, employment assistance and much more to youth in the area who are between the ages of 17 to 21.

This is the 13th year for the event. Check-in got underway at 4 p.m. Friday at Market Street Plaza."

[Watch the Full Segment Here](#)

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