



Here to listen.
Here to help.



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Who We Are

The National Runaway Safeline (NRS) works to keep America's runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. During FY25, NRS operated three referral lines reaching over 30,000 youth and families through hotline, online, and prevention resources.

NRS operates the only designated hotline for Runaway and Homeless Youth, known as 1-800-RUNAWAY providing a depth of services and support for youth in crisis, 24/7, 365 days a year.

Our Focus

CRISIS INTERVENTION

NRS connects with young people and families at their most vulnerable moments through hotlines and on-line services, ensuring youth have immediate access to the resources and support they need during a crisis.

NRS services are available at no cost to youth, offering confidential and non-judgmental support empowering youth and their families to resolve the crisis with resources in their area.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

NRS raises awareness of issues facing young people and encourages the public to take action in the efforts to end youth homelessness, collaborating with organizations and individuals on campaigns including the National Youth Homelessness, Outreach, Prevention and Education (HOPE) Month campaign in November.

In 2025, NRS had 200+ partners across all 50 states and Washington, D.C., helping raise awareness on social media, through lighting landmarks, obtaining state proclamations, and in the media.

PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

In FY25, thousands of youth contacted NRS while still at home, highlighting the importance of prevention and education efforts to support youth and families before they end up on the streets at risk of events that leave lasting impacts on physical and emotional well-being. NRS provides prevention strategies and resources to youth, families, service providers, teachers, and community members nationwide.

Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum is an evidence-based, interactive tool provided to community leaders to educate youth about alternatives to running away. Helping them develop problem-solving skills to address needs before a crisis escalates. 1,777 individuals and organizations downloaded curriculum in FY25.

Dear Friends of NRS,

While 2025 presented new and unexpected challenges, NRS, and friends of NRS, remained committed to our mission. Together, we ensured that NRS continued to serve youth and families in crisis and that everyone who reached out could count on NRS being here to listen, here to help, whenever they needed us.

With deep gratitude to our donors, board members, staff, and the youth and families who trust NRS, we are proud to share that we ended 2025 stronger and more secure than we began - delivering greater programming, awareness, and impact than ever before.

Despite uncertainty around federal funding, NRS remained resilient thanks to the generosity of individuals and foundations. We closed the year with healthy cash reserves that will help us weather future uncertainty. We also relocated our corporate office to better align with our needs as a remote organization, with staff across 11 states, ensuring that more resources are directed to youth programming. This year, we welcomed two new board members and introduced new roles for board advisors and board patrons, strengthening our governance and support network. We also continued to invest in our dedicated and experienced staff, including those supporting our Youth Advisory Board.



In June 2025 the NRS Community came together to meet the newly appointed CEO, Amanda Whitlock and learn more about the strategic plan and focus of NRS over the coming year.

We launched our third information and referral hotline, dedicated specifically to youth mental health needs. With support from foundations and private donors, this new service reached youth across 27 states in its first year. We also proudly renewed and celebrated our 30-year partnership with Greyhound. Through this partnership, we provided bus tickets to 543 youth—helping them safely return home, avoid homelessness, or escape unsafe situations.

Each November, NRS leads a national youth Homeless, Outreach, Prevention, and Education campaign, branded as Youth HOPE Month since 2023. The 2025 campaign was a tremendous success, with partners in all 50 states and Washington, DC, and nearly 200 individual and agency partners nationwide. A member of our Youth Advisory Board presented awards to top partners in Washington, DC, during a national conference attended by more than 800 professionals serving runaway and homeless youth.

While we are proud of our accomplishments this past year—and over the past half-century—there is still much work to do. Youth across America feel more isolated than ever. Mental health challenges are rising, family resources are strained, and support systems are narrowing, leading to increasing individual youth crisis. For more than 50 years, NRS has been a constant in the storm, and we remain committed to being that constant for youth and families in crisis.

We hope we can continue to count on your support as we work to reach—and exceed—our goals for 2026 and beyond.

Thank you for your continued generosity, partnership, and belief in our mission. We look forward to the work ahead and to strengthening our impact together.

In Gratitude,



Amanda Whitlock
Chief Executive Officer



Melanie Hill
Chair, Board of Directors

Our Impact

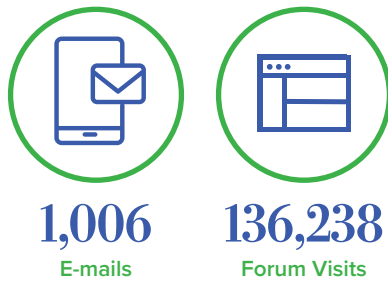
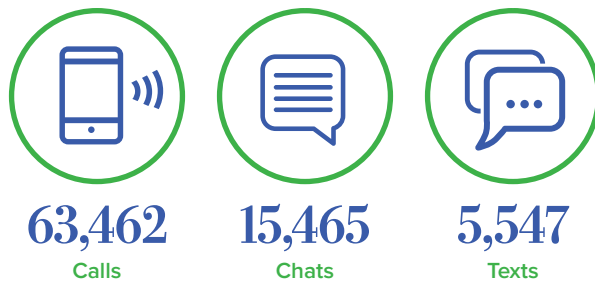
NRS is committed to addressing challenges faced by America's youth. Evaluation of crisis services identifies critical needs, and NRS develops strategies to respond at local and national levels. We analyze data shared by those seeking support to determine key insights and explore emerging issues impacting youth in crisis.

Our Crisis Services and Prevention Report provides a comprehensive overview of who contacts NRS, why they

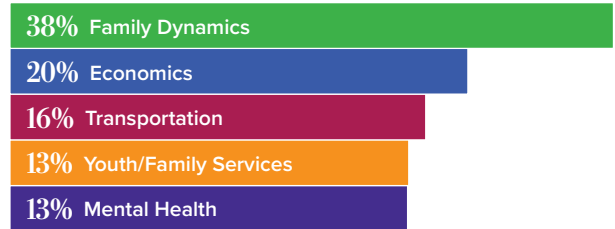
reach out, how they connect, and what services they receive. These findings guide NRS and the broader runaway and homeless youth field in improving support and engagement strategies.

Your support ensures we can continue this vital work—strengthening our ability to reach youth in crisis and shape solutions that save lives.

Methods of Outreach for 1800 Runaway



Most Common Issues Reported by Youth contacting 1800 Runaway



Youth Status at the Time of Contact



She's just 15. Pregnant. Alone. And homeless.

When she called NRS, she wasn't asking for much—just a safe place to sleep and a chance to figure out her future. Crisis Workers listened as she shared her fears and desperation. Together, they explored every possible shelter option, weighing the risks and benefits of each. For this young girl, every decision could change the course of her life—and her baby's.

This is what your support makes possible. Every call is a lifeline. Every conversation is a chance to protect a child from danger and give them hope. But we can't do it without you.

You can help us be there for the next child who calls. Their future depends on it.

Resource Referrals



NRS maintains a database of 6,500+ shelters, counselors, treatment centers, and programs across the country. Services and resources are discussed during evaluation to help resolve any issues.

This solutions-focused approach leads to crisis contacts discussing referrals or next steps, with many contacts discussing multiple options.

Message Service & Conference Calls

Communication between a young person in crisis and their parent/guardian can be difficult, and NRS offers services to foster connection, delivering messages from concerned adults to youth, and vice versa. If all parties involved are ready to talk, we serve as neutral mediators. Staff facilitate conference calls with family members or community-based agencies where NRS representatives advocate on a youth's behalf.

30 Years of Hope: Bringing Youth to Safety with the Home Free Program

Every day, young people face unimaginable challenges—family conflict, homelessness, and even exploitation. For many, the cost of a bus ticket stands between them and safety. Through the Home Free program, NRS in partnership with Greyhound, has been breaking that barrier for 30 years, providing a critical lifeline: bus tickets to reunite youth with family/guardians, or connect them to safe living arrangements.

Since launching in 1995, Home Free has helped 20,000+ youth find hope and stability by alleviating the cost of transportation. For many, this ticket is the difference between isolation and safety, a way out of danger. For some, the ticket means escaping homelessness, for others, it means freedom from trafficking or violence.

In 2025 alone, NRS received 1,534 inquiries into the Home Free program, and issued 543 bus tickets—each representing a life changed and a family restored. The need is staggering: 4.2 million young people experience homelessness in the U.S. each year. Many are thousands of miles from home, without money or options. Home Free ensures that when they're ready to return to safety; a way home exists.

Home Free is more than a ticket – it's hope. Coordinated efforts from parents/guardians, social service and anti-trafficking organizations help youth—including those escaping labor or sex trafficking—reach caring adults or a safe place where they can heal and thrive.

A Story of Hope

After surviving a brutal assault, a young girl faced a terrifying reality: leaving the hospital with nowhere safe to go. Her only lifeline was her grandmother—miles away on the other side of the county. Without help, she risked being stranded and vulnerable to further harm.

Through the Home Free program, we stepped in. We provided a bus ticket that carried her not just across the county, but back to the arms of someone who loves her. That ride meant more than transportation—it meant healing, security, and a chance to rebuild her life.

Your support makes this possible. Every ticket represents a second chance, a lifeline to safety. Every mile traveled is a step toward hope; a family reunited, a future reclaimed. Thanks to Greyhound and the generosity of our donors, this program ensures no young person is left stranded when all they need is a ride home.



Youth HOPE Month

November is Youth Homelessness, Outreach, Prevention and Education (HOPE) Month, a campaign to bring attention and action to youth homelessness.

In recognition of Youth HOPE Month, NRS leads a public awareness campaign to shine a light on the issues facing runaway and homeless youth and empower people to take action. In 2025, we expanded our reach and strengthened our impact through various events.



Lunch & Learn Series

Response to Youth at Risk of Homelessness:
61 registered partners/organizations

Innovative Practices to Address Youth Homelessness:
97 registered partners/organizations

Education Week

Social media series to share information on unique topics and highlight accomplishments of key partners.

“Shine a Light” Events

NRS engaged partners in awareness-building activities, including Wear Green Day on November 16th, the Green Light Project (local monuments/buildings lit in green in support of NRPM), and other local events, including online resource fairs. Through NRS outreach efforts, 275+ landmarks nationwide were contacted to light up green in honor of Youth HOPE Month.

In 2025, NRS recruited 200+ unique organizations and individuals to register as Youth HOPE Month Partners, representing all 50 states and Washington, D.C. NRS recognized organizations: Ignite, NCMEC, Project HOPE Alliance, and Zepf Center by publishing articles and educating the public about their services.

CCBYS

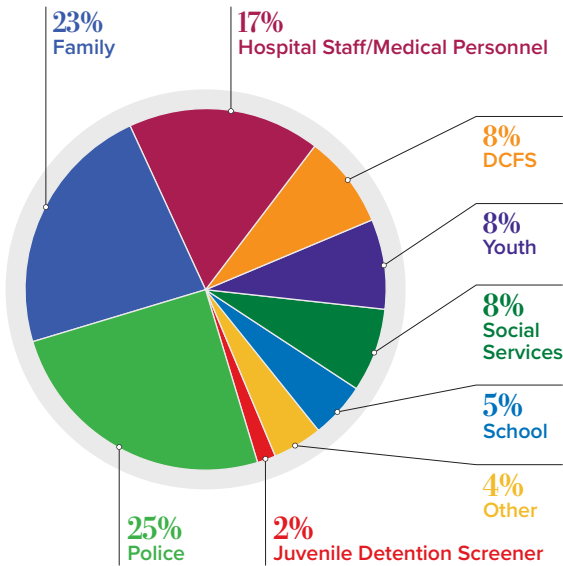
The Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS) is a network of community-based providers serving vulnerable youth ages 11-17 across Illinois. Youth, families, service providers, and other authorities supporting youth in need of emergency shelter can contact the CCBYS

Information and Referral Line (IRL) to connect with a CCBYS agency in their area.

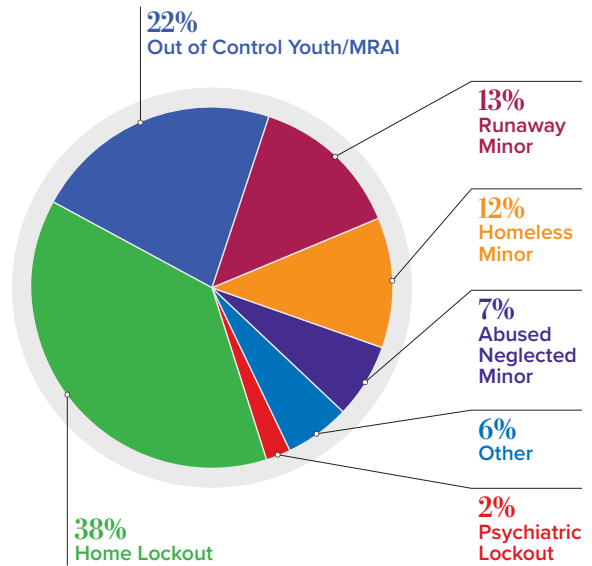
NRS has been operating CCBYS IRL 24/7 answering and connecting callers with local providers across Illinois for more than 20 years.

of contacts: 5,882

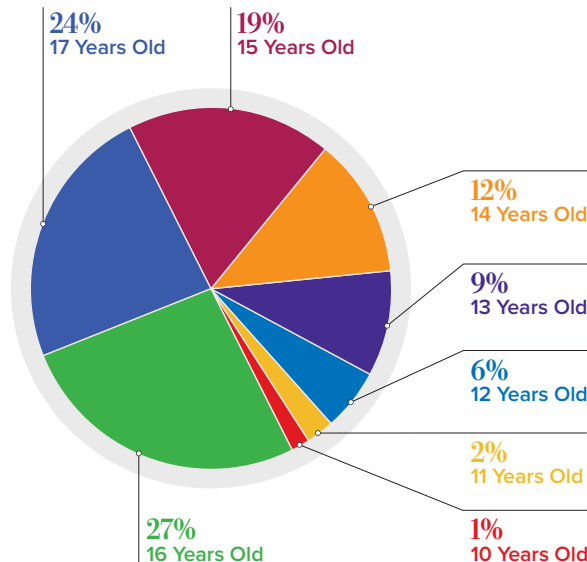
Caller Type



Youth Present Situation



Ages



NRS collects information from contacts voluntarily throughout crisis intervention. Percentages listed in this report are based on individuals who chose to provide information on each data point.

MOCA: Mentally Overcoming Challenges & Adversity Teen Mental Health & Referral Safeline

She was just 17.

Her world felt like it was collapsing - home didn't feel safe, and every day was a battle she didn't think she could win. In the middle of that darkness, she reached out through MOCA to the National Runaway Safeline. That single moment of courage changed everything.

Instead of becoming another heartbreaking statistic, she found someone who listened—someone who reminded her that her life mattered. We helped her move past the overwhelming impulse to end it all and gave her hope for tomorrow. Then, we connected her with resources: safe places she could go, and local crisis services ready to support her if things got hard again.

Because of that call, she's still here. She has a chance to dream, to heal, and to live.



**Teen Mental Health Crisis
& Referral Safeline**

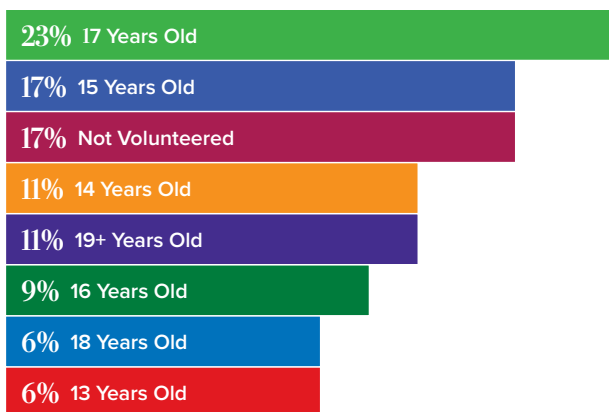
Your support makes stories like hers possible. Every donation helps us answer the next call, the next cry for help, the next life hanging in the balance.

In March 2025, NRS launched its third hotline to address the unmet needs of youth with mental health concerns unable or unwilling to utilize 988. With donations and support from foundations and individuals, NRS expanded the Teen Mental Health & Referral Safeline to a national scale with the hotline

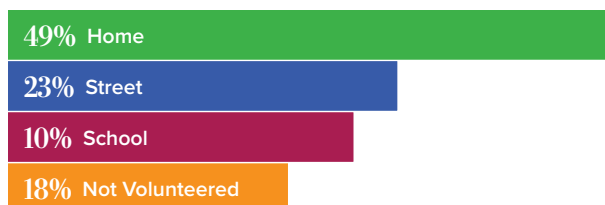
already being utilized by youth across 27 states. MOCA ensures that no young person is alone during a crisis, and all youth have a safe place to talk about mental health, seek support during challenges, and get help locating resources in their community.

MOCA can be reached via call or text at 1-888-504-MOCA (6622). MOCAListens.org

Ages



Youth Current Location



Donate to Support Youth Mental Health Crisis Hotline

NRS greatly appreciates any and all support to expand this crisis line to youth across the country. As we continue to make progress despite funding cuts and regulation on who and how we can serve youth, we hope we can count on you to help us reach a future where every child feels loved, valued, and welcomed at home, where the idea of running away or the fear of being kicked out does not enter a child's mind.

Please donate online using either the QR code or website below.



NationalRunawaySafeline.org/donate

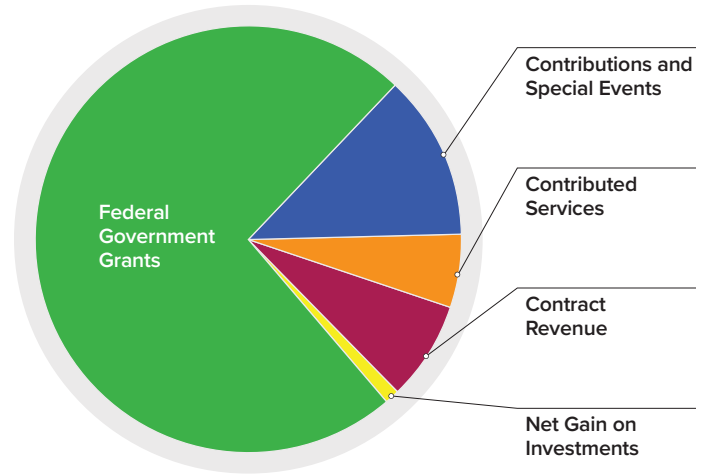
Financials

National Runaway Safeline is grateful to our donors, foundations and corporate sponsors. The financial information highlighted below reflects donations made from 10/1/2024

- 9/30/2025 and represents the audited financial statements for NRS. For more financial information, please email development@nationalrunawaysafeline.org.

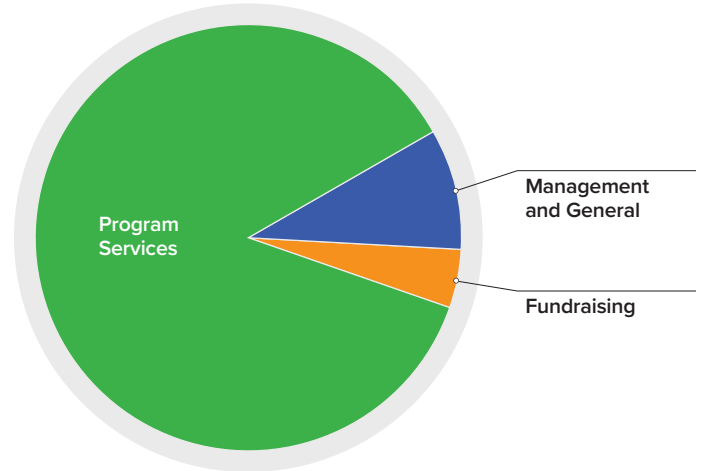
Revenue

Federal Government Grants	\$ 2,231,729
Contributions and Special Events	\$ 381,909
Contributed Services	\$ 166,683
Contract Revenue	\$ 230,041
Net Gain on Investments	\$ 7,502
Total Revenue	\$ 3,017,864



Expenses

Program Services	\$ 2,025,878
Management and General	\$ 214,540
Fundraising	\$ 101,974
Total Expenses	\$ 2,342,392
Net Income	\$ 675,472
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 356,016



Per finalized Audit 1/30/2026, 990 pending

Thank You to Our Donors

We truly appreciate the incredible generosity of our donor community. Your support empowers the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) to provide critical resources and compassionate assistance to youth and families in crisis. Because of you, thousands of young people have found safety, hope, and a path forward.

This list celebrates gifts made to NRS from October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025. If your name is missing or misspelled, we'd love to ensure it appears correctly. Please contact our Development Director, Tara Pink at tpink@1800runaway.org, and we will gladly update our records.

Thanks to YOUR Contributions

- NRS responded to over 100,000 crisis interactions, providing immediate support to youth in need.
- Expanded prevention programs reached families nationwide, helping reduce the risk of runaway and homeless situations across the country.
- 24/7 hotline and digital services are available 365 days a year, ensuring no young person feels alone.
- Your generosity makes these achievements possible—and we couldn't do it without you!

FOUNDATIONS

AbbVie Foundation
Builders Vision Fund at the Chicago
Community Foundation

Charities Aid Foundation of America
Chicago Cubs Charities
Murray Reese Foundation

PepsiCo Foundation
Poshard Foundation for Abused Children
Sulzer Family Foundation

CORPORATIONS & GROUPS

Allstate Insurance Company
Apple Corp
Citadel

Greyhound Lines, Inc.
McMaster-Carr Supply Company
Nextera Energy Corporation

Salesforce
William Blair
Wintrust Financial Corporation

INDIVIDUALS

Syed Ahmad
Karen Anagnost
AbbVie Employee Anonymous
Victoria Armstrong
Matt Athanasiou
Mary M Baer
Caleb Ballard
Thi Ban
Mark Beatty
Lorrie Behr
Eric Bjerstedt
Tiffany Bonds
Philip Brooks
Jeffrey Brown
Nicholas Bruce
Daniel Callahan
Jose Capetillo
James Carbone
David Chan
Sasatorn Chitphakdithai
Jeoffrey Chorvat
Jodi Cohen

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Barbara Dean
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Merritt DeWitt
Demostanis Diakoumakos
Michael DiCosola
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Tessa Dyer
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Neale Eckstein
Jonah & Erin Ellin
Monica Emrani Horowitz
Paul Enloe
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Jim Fortsas
Delon Freund
Andrea Friedlander
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Dylan Gerow
Martin Gleason
Harold Goings
Joseph Goodwin
Karen Goulet
Margaret Green
Joel Haberman
Connie Hardy
Joseph Hausfeld
Matthew Hayes
Casey Helbling
Andrea Hesser
Katie Hetrick
Adrianna Hey
Janine Hill
Melanie Hill
Roberta Hill
Shakee Hitik
Sarah Hoban
Hazel Holland
Sandra Holubow
Natalie Hornstrom

Thank You to Our Donors

Noah Hornstrom
Jason Hunke
Julia Hynes
Sara Irmen
John Janda
Amy Kahn
Fred Karger
Jacqueline Keitel
Maureen Kelly
Aidan Kernochan
Odis Ketterer
Dave Klein
Kevin Knipstein
Clarice Koch
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Brett Kring
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Krystal Thomas
Andrew Underwood
Susan Van Dusartz
Jack Van Kempen
Joshua Veasley
Barb Waddy
Sarah Walczewski
Graham Waller
Erica Wolfort Ward
Sara Weber
Susan Weil
Janice White
Amanda Whitlock
Ron Willhoff
Grete Willstrom
Jenice Wilson
Joanna Wozniak
John Wright
Jeffrey Zeppetello
Katie Zvolanek

Our Leadership

National Runaway Safeline is pleased to introduce two new board members who joined us in 2025.



Michelle White



José Soares

Board of Directors

Alexandra Mack
*Alchymyx LLC,
Founder and Principal*

Danielle Myrick
Secretary

Erin Dyer
*Consultant,
Operations Executive*

Jodi Cohen
*ProPublica,
Illinois Reporter*

José Soares
*Flix North America, Inc
Head of Sales and Agencies –
North America*

Joyce Sapir
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Melanie Hill
*Chair
Ace Hardware Corporation Director,
Retail Innovation & Advanced Concepts*

Michelle White
*Wintrust,
Vice President – Business Development*

Noah Hornstrom
*Chair of Engagement Committee
Citadel Investment Group,
Ashler Capital Portfolio Manager*

Randy Randall
*William Blair & Company,
Chief Compliance Officer*

Reto Micheluzzi
*Treasurer and Chair of Finance,
Audit, and Risk Committee
PwC, Partner*

Sarah Walczewski
*Builders Vision,
Head of Strategy Integration &
Special Projects*

Thi Ban
*Fusion92,
SVP Finance and Accounting*

Val Rusk
*Continuum Legal Group,
Partner*

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Advisor

Deirdre Holub
Advisor

Erica Wolfort
Advisor

Randy Royer
Advisor

Scott Murray
Advisor

Tynetta-Hill-Muhammad
Advisor

Krystal Thomas
Patron

Staff Leadership Team

Amanda Whitlock, LCSW
Chief Executive Officer

Mindy Wade, CMA, CPA
Fractional CFO

Sarah Allen
Director of Programs

Tara Pink
Director, Development & Engagement



Michelle Bess
Senior Human Resources Manager

Matt Maturo
Senior IT Manager



4849 N Milwaukee Ave, Suite 700 • Chicago, IL 60630

773-880-9860 • nationalrunawaysafeline.org

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