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NATIONAL RUNAWAY SAFELINE ANNOUNCES ITS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER, SPIRIT OF YOUTH, TO BE HELD AT NAVY PIER, SATURDAY, OCT. 15 AT 7 P.M.

A New Location and Theme for the Annual Benefit Raising Funds for NRS' Crisis Hotline for Runaway and Homeless Youth Across the Nation

CHICAGO – The **National Runaway Safeline** (NRS) and co-chairs **Joyce Sapir** of Deerfield and **Troy McDonald Kane** of Chicago announce the organization's annual benefit, **Spirit of Youth**, to be held at Navy Pier, Festival Hall B, 600 E. Grand, 7 – 10 p.m., **Saturday, Oct. 15**. This year's festival with street flair includes cuisine from various food trucks including **Beaver Doughnuts, Fat Shallot, BabyCakes, Courageous Cupcakes, The Slide Ride** and **Yum Dum** parked inside the festival hall, a wine and beer garden featuring **Lagunitas Brewing Company**, dancing with live entertainment from **Kozmo's Underground**, carnival games, both silent and live auctions and more. Proceeds from the Spirit of Youth Festival directly benefit NRS' crisis hotline and online services it provides to runaway, homeless and at-risk youth across the nation. Single tickets to the festival are \$100 each with discounts available for guests purchasing more than one ticket: two tickets for \$175, six tickets for \$500 and 15 tickets for \$1000. General admission tickets include beer and wine, dinner, and activities. VIP tickets, at \$200 each, include beer and wine, dinner, activities plus open bar, reserved seating and a VIP raffle. For more information, to purchase tickets or to make a donation, please visit www.1800RUNAWAY.org/about-us/events or call 773.289.1727.

During the Spirit of Youth Festival, the 2016 Spirit of Youth Award is to be presented to the **First Nonprofit Foundation** for their support of youth in crisis. The evening is scheduled to raise \$250,000 to support the National Runaway Safeline's efforts to keep America's runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets.

"We are always excited about Spirit of Youth. However, this year with the street festival theme at the newly renovated Navy Pier, it promises to be an even more fun and unique event for all," said **National Runaway Safeline Executive Director Maureen Blaha**. "Spirit of Youth allows supporters, funders, volunteers and guests to come together to help raise needed funds for this organization while celebrating our accomplishments of the past year and looking forward to future activities."

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About the National Runaway Safeline

The National Runaway Safeline (NRS), formerly known as the National Runaway Switchboard, established in 1971, serves as the federally-designated national communication system for runaway and homeless youth. Annually, NRS, with the support of more than 120 volunteers, makes 250,000 connections to help and hope through hotline, online and offline resources. Through its crisis hotline (1-800-RUNAWAY) and online (1800RUNAWAY.org) services, NRS provides crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, and education and prevention services to youth, families and community members throughout the country 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. More than 15,000 youth have been reunited with their families through NRS' Home Free program done in collaboration with Greyhound Lines, Inc.

2016 Spirit of Youth Festival Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors: EY Partners, Longest Day of Golf and United Airlines.

Gold Sponsors: Aim National Leasing, Carlton Technologies, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Tube and Iron, Greyhound Lines, Ken Lavelle, Stephen and Rosemary Mack, Olympic Steel, Radio Flyer, The SMB Help Desk, Inc., Vibes and The Wolford Family Foundation.

To inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Katy Walsh at KWalsh@1800RUNAWAY.org or 773.289.1727.

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