



National Runaway Safeline  
3080 North Lincoln Avenue  
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# FRONTLINE

FALL 2013

KEEPING AMERICA'S RUNAWAY, HOMELESS AND AT-RISK YOUTH SAFE AND OFF THE STREETS.

## This November, Make an Impact In Runaway Prevention

### 2013 National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM)



The National Runaway Safeline's mission is to keep America's runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets.

November is National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM). Since 2002, the goal of NRPM has been to raise awareness about the issues that runaways and homeless youth face,

and educate the public about solutions to preventing youth from running away from home.

When a youth runs away, the impact is felt throughout the entire community.

- Not only are youth aged 12-17 at higher risk for homelessness than adults, but running away from home as an adolescent increases the odds of having suicidal thoughts as an adult by 51%.
- In addition, the odds of former runaways being arrested as adults are over two and a half times higher than individuals who never ran away from home.

Along with 17 national partners, National Runaway Safeline (NRS) plans to make runaway prevention part of the national conversation throughout November. This year's theme is "Here to listen. Here to help".

Year-round, NRS continues to expand its mission to keep America's runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. In November, individuals, businesses, community groups, teachers, elected officials, and human service agencies are encouraged to participate in NRPM to educate their communities about the negative impacts of running away.

Keep reading to learn how you can take action and support NRPM in your community today.

NATIONAL RUNAWAY SAFELINE

# Spirit of Youth

2013

**NOVEMBER 1, 2013**  
**6PM TO 9PM**

The Palmer House  
Grand Ballroom  
17 E. Monroe, Chicago, IL

**SPIRIT OF YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT:**  
Nami Mun, author "Miles From Nowhere"

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Sponsorship levels from \$2,500 through \$25,000; contact Katy Walsh at [kwalsh@1800RUNAWAY.org](mailto:kwalsh@1800RUNAWAY.org) for more information.

Bid On The Online Auction, Enter The Raffle Or Secure Event Tickets At [1800RUNAWAY.org](http://1800RUNAWAY.org)

# INSIDE:

▪ **HELP!**

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# HELP!

"I need **help**. Every single time I do something wrong. Not bad, but just..not perfect."

"I suspect that my parents might kick me out, can they still have the police bring me home if they kicked me out? Please **help** I don't know what to do."

"I don't know what to do anymore.. I'm on the verge of running away but I wouldn't know where to go. Please, please, please **help** me!!!"

The National Runaway Safeline (NRS) gets requests for help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. Youth call 1-800-RUNAWAY. They also live chat, email or post messages at 1800RUNAWAY.org. The above quotes are from our online bulletin board, just a sampling of the thousands of youth seeking NRS' help during their crisis. It may be a dispute with a parent or being bullied at school or struggling with sexual identity. No matter what the crisis is, NRS is here to **help**, here to listen.

Last year, NRS made over 250,000 connections to help and hope as a hotline, online and offline resource.

NRS started Fiscal Year 2014 with a five percent reduction in its operating budget. Despite the increasing cost of doing business and enhancing services to better serve more youth, NRS received a five year federal grant (2012-2017) that was the exact same amount as the last grant (2006-2011). Additionally, as part of the government sequestration, NRS' FY14 grant was cut by \$80,000. As other nonprofits are forced to cut their service hours, NRS continues to be available 24/7/365.

This year, more than ever, NRS needs your support! Please consider NRS in your end of the year philanthropic giving. Your contribution helps us continue to be there for any

youth in emotional turmoil. When you are there for us, we can be there for them... all of them, all the time. Together, we can help keep America's runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets.

"You answered all my questions completely but this isn't the last time you'll be hearing from me, because I'm still in the same home."

"I didn't runaway and life got better. Thanks, 1-800-RUNAWAY."



**Maureen Blaha**  
Executive Director

**Anne Schankin**  
Board Chair

# Take Action in Your Community for National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM)

Thirty Days in November to Celebrate Youth

NRS encourages you to take action and mark your calendar to help raise awareness about the runaway and homeless youth crisis. Participate in any of the following activities:

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH:** Help NRPM go viral by participating in the *Social Media Day of Action*. Use NRS' caller data and research to disseminate statistics about runaway and homeless youth.

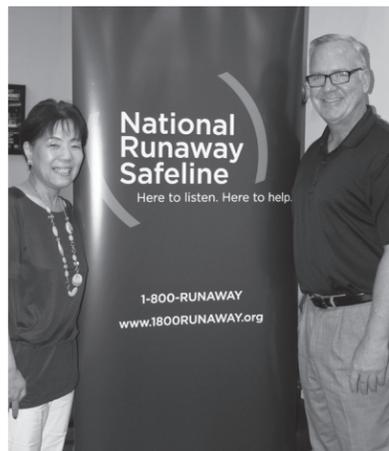
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH:** Join NRS and Greyhound Lines, Inc. for *Green Sock/GreenHound Day*. Get a group of employees, friends, or family to wear green socks, or anything green, on that day. Take a group picture and send it to NRS at outreach@1800RUNAWAY.org and we'll feature it on 1800RUNAWAY.org and our Facebook page @National Runaway Safeline.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH:** Host a "Runaway" movie night with a group of youth to watch the film *Augusta Gone*, a true story written by a mother whose daughter ran away. To learn how to lead a group discussion about the film, visit 1800RUNAWAY.org/educators/curriculum/ to download *Module 6: Runaway Reality* from NRS' **Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH:** Show your support of youth by texting positive messages to the youth in your life. For the *full calendar of activities for NRPM* visit 1800RUNAWAY.org.



Sojourners Care Network participates in the 2012 Green Light Project by distributing green light bulbs to homeowners in McArthur, OH. - Photo courtesy of Sojourners Care Network



National Runaway Safeline  
Here to listen. Here to help.  
1-800-RUNAWAY  
www.1800RUNAWAY.org

NRS recently hosted visitors from the Childline Support Center Japan. Childline Support Center Japan answers 200,000 calls a year and offers non-directive support to young people across Japan. Executive Director Kazuko Ueno is pictured, left, with NRS' Director of Programs Gordon Vance. Photo by Jasleen Jaswal Vines



New volunteer "liners" are pictured attending a September training session. Before they take their first call, each "liner" must complete a 40 hour classroom and experiential training program. NRS also offers comprehensive trainings on a variety of topics for a fee, plus expenses. Trainings are tailored to meet the host agency's needs and range in length from two to eight hours. For more information, visit 1800RUNAWAY.org. Photo by Sabrina Hampton

## Thank you to our supporters!

### GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

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*In Memory of D. Donohue*  
Marvin and Kay Zelkin

*In Memory of Karen Gulotta*  
Maureen Blaha and Joe Morris

*In Memory of Papi*  
Marvin and Kay Zelkin

# BOARD



NRS' Board of Directors gathered on September 19th for the annual meeting and reception. Pictured from left to right: Dave Dean (Secretary), Tom Lawler, Anne Schankin (Board Chair), Jim Criner, Randall Royer (Treasurer), Brian Zboril, John Stotts, Emily Lohse-Busch, Troy McDonald Kane, Katya Mazon, NRS' Executive Director Maureen Blaha, Jodi Cohen, Jack Philbin, Christina Van Pelt (Vice Chair), Michele Lehman, Dr. Gary Harper, Kandace Lenti, and Suzi Schelewitz. Picture by Samantha Owens