COLORADO HOMELESS & RUNAWAY YOUTH
AWARENESS MONTH - NOVEMBER 2011
Making the Connection

At least 1,500 youth and young adults ages 12 to 24 are homeless in Colorado right now!

For More Information Contact

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Hidden Homeless

Children make up 27% — **the fastest growing segment** — of the U.S. homeless population, and there's no end in sight. The recession has forced many families out of their homes, making these youth just another group on the long list of victims, moving from couch to couch, shelter to shelter. But for many, economic stresses are just another ingredient in dysfunctional home lives, leading many to run away. They escape their home only to find new dangers and challenges. As many have pointed out, it's not that these youth are living on the streets — they're surviving, at best. These youth often blend in with their peers. Youth homelessness is largely the result of family breakdown and dysfunction as well as foster care and juvenile justice involvement.

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Too many Colorado youth have been left to fend for themselves, without a safe and stable place to stay.

Want to help a homeless youth?

Here 's how.....

"Making the Connection"

Colorado Homeless and Runaway Youth Awareness Month is a part of National Runaway Prevention Month and Homeless Youth Awareness Month. The National Runaway Switchboard and other national organizations as well as Colorado Statewide Advisory Committee on Homeless Youth promote this public awareness campaign each November in order to increase the awareness of the issues facing runaway and homeless youth, and to educate the public about solutions and the role they can play in preventing youth from running away.

What you can do?

Assist a local homeless youth service organization near you. These organizations need your help to continue providing shelter, housing, outreach, and supportive services to homeless and runaway youth.

- Sponsor a fundraiser
- Collect donations
- Volunteer
- Mentor

Get a community action kit with more details and resources on how to help a homeless youth below.

www.1800runaway.org/rpm/media.html

Get the word out about the challenges facing runaway and homeless youth.

-Participate in the National Green Light Project. The Green Light Project allows community members to get involved by replacing their porch light with a green light bulb or wearing a green light bulb lapel pin. This creates the opportunity to raise awareness as community members can tell others a bit about the problem of youth homelessness and how others can help. For more information visit: **http://www.1800runaway.org/rpm/GreenLight.html**.

-Help Runaway and Homeless Youth through Public School Districts. CDE Homeless Education link: **http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprevention/homeless_index.htm**

- Donate your status on their favorite social networking site to raise awareness of youth homelessness. Direct people to **www.coloradohomelessyouth.org** to take action.

Who to contact!

If YOU encounter a homeless youth or a youth in crisis who requests assistance, please contact:

NATIONAL RESOURCES:

National Runaway Switchboard
1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929)

Covenant House 1-800-999-9999

COLORADO RESOURCES:

Urban Peak Denver 303-974-2900
(Metro Denver area)

Family Tree Gemini 303-235-0630
(Metro Denver/Boulder area)

Comitis Crisis Center 303-343-9890
(Metro Denver/Aurora area)

Dry Bones 303-250-4410

Stand up for Kids Denver 720-837-8343
(Denver area)

Volunteers of America 720-904-9821
(Metro Denver area)

Urban Peak Colorado Springs 719-630-3223
(Colorado Springs area)

Moffat County Department of Youth Services
970-824-9105 (Craig/Moffat County area)

Montezuma County Partners 970-565-4926
x16 (Montezuma County/Four Corners area)

San Luis Valley Mental Health 719-589-3671
(Alamosa/San Luis Valley area)

Garfield County Human Services-STEPS Program 970-625-5282 x3106 (Garfield County)

Huerfano County 719-738-2378
(Walsenburg/Huerfano County area)

Montrose County-Hilltop Community Services
970-964-2488 (Montrose County area)