



November 1, 2009

The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) and the National Network for Youth (NN4Y), in partnership with other prominent national organizations, announce *the eighth annual National Runaway Prevention Month* (NRPM) for November. **The goals of the 2009 National Runaway Prevention Month are twofold: 1) to raise awareness of the issues facing runaway youth; and, 2) to educate the public about solutions and the role they can play in preventing youth from running.**

Each year NRS handles more than 100,000 calls from youth and their families; however, millions of youth are away from home. The 2009 National Runaway Prevention Month theme, *Answering the Call*, was chosen in hopes of increasing awareness and educating the public through three awareness initiatives: 1) [Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum](#), the easy to use 14-module interactive curriculum with various topics and youth approved activities; 2) the [Community Action Kit](#), a well designed toolkit developed to assist local community members in planning, conducting, and promoting community projects and activities to be held during National Runaway Prevention Month; and 3) the [Green Light Project](#), used to show support of NRPM by purchasing and displaying a green light bulb on front porches during November. As a part of the 2009 National Runaway Prevention Month, NRS is proud to announce the launch of [Hablemos](#), a Spanish-language version of the *Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum*.

Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away from home annually. Providing these young people access to information and services that reduce their exposure to harm is critical. We encourage you to join us in promoting National Runaway Prevention Month in your community. The National Runaway Switchboard is sponsoring a [Community Runaway Prevention Contest](#) to honor groups conducting activities which fulfill the goals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

As leaders of organizations who are concerned and care about America's youth, we are delighted with the impact our partnership can have on vulnerable youth and are confident you will share our enthusiasm for this unique opportunity to work together to keep youth safe and off the streets.

Respectfully,

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