



September 15, 2010

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 2010 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, research indicates between 1.6 and 2.8 million of youth are away from home. The 2010 National Runaway Prevention Month theme, *Running in the Shadows*, stems from the New York Times October 25, 2009 two-part series "Running in the Shadows," which garnered national attention by painting a vivid picture of the dangers our youth face once they leave home. The Times' series make a compelling argument for the importance of services, such as NRS, whose mission is to keep America's runaway and at-risk youth safe and off the streets.

We encourage you to download three awareness initiatives to jumpstart your awareness campaign in your community: 1) the NRPM [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; 2) the [Green Light Project](#), used to show support of NRPM by purchasing and displaying a green light bulb on front porches during November; and 3) [Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum](#), the easy to use 14-module interactive curriculum with various topics and youth approved activities; In addition, educational materials to accompany the activities you have planned during the month of November can be ordered free of charge from NRS.

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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