



Runaway & Homeless Youth Month November 2016

Ways You Can Help!

FOLLOW: Follow California Runaway and Homeless Youth Month on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cal youth.org. Be sure to share our one-a-day FB posts and Tweets!

REQUEST: Ask your local government officials to sponsor a resolution or proclamation recognizing November 2016 as Runaway & Homeless Youth Month. Find a sample resolution in this Toolkit.

ATTEND: Attend RHYM events in your communities or better yet, organize one and invite the media and the public.

SPEAK: Deliver a presentation to a community group (schools and colleges, civic groups, business organizations, Soroptimist Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Boys & Girls Clubs) on the problems runaway and homeless youth face and the resources available, or if not available, the need to develop them. Bring outreach materials about your organization and the California Youth Crisis Line. For copies of the CYCL materials, contact outreach@cal youth.org.

WRITE: Write a letter to your local newspaper's editor or blog about California's homeless youth population. Fact sheets on California's homeless youth are included in this Toolkit.

DEDICATE: Dedicate your Facebook status to this issue for a week in November. Here's an example: *Did you know that on any given night in California over 15,000 unaccompanied youth will be living on the streets?*

HANG: Hang a California Youth Crisis Line poster in your office, at high schools, in the windows of supportive businesses. You can request posters by emailing the CYCL at outreach@cal youth.org.

SHARE: Distribute California Youth Crisis Line wallet cards to youth you know or work with and give them out when you are hanging the CYCL posters. You can request wallet cards by emailing the CYCL at outreach@cal youth.org

HOST: Host a drive throughout the month of November to collect warm items (socks, sleeping bags, coats, blankets) for homeless youth in your community.

DONATE: Donate to the California Youth Crisis Line so that homeless youth have 24/7 access to resources, referrals and support, no matter where they are. To make a donation, visit our website, www.calyouth.org/donate

GIVE: Make a donation or volunteer at a local youth shelter. Call the California Youth Crisis Line at 1-800-843-5200 to find one near you.

CREATE: Tell your online contacts about RHYM by adding the following message to your e-mail signature or social media network: “November is Runaway and Homeless Youth Month. Get involved today by visiting www.calyouth.org [or your website]”

PROMOTE: Bring attention to any local efforts to showcase homeless youth art or photos; organize a special screening of “American Street Kid,” a documentary on runaway and homeless youth. For more info, <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanStreetKid>

CONTACT: Contact local media—or use your social media—to tell personal stories of runaway and homeless youth and their struggles to find shelter and support

PARTNER: Join forces with local LGBTQ organizations to raise awareness of the fact that nearly 40% of runaway and homeless youth are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning, subject to considerably more abuse and discrimination when on the streets.

ORGANIZE: Organize an Open House or Tour of your facility or facilities that serve runaway and homeless youth. Invite the public, local officials, key business interests and the media to participate.

MEET UP: Urge your friends and families to hold brown bag lunch forums to discuss the issues surrounding runaway and homeless youth in your community.

INVITE: Invite the public to hear local experts by hosting a local forum for youth, parents, service providers and other stakeholders in runaway and homeless youth issues. Invite expert guest speakers to present information at the forum (representatives from service providers, researchers or academic specialists, city agencies, and/or youth).