Look Beneath the Surface: Runaway, homeless, and missing youth

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Hotline: 216-570-8010

www.bjcb.org
www.saveclekids.org

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What do you think of when you hear homeless youth?
What do you think of when you hear missing youth?

I am because you see me!

Please be open minded, and kind hearted!

Homeless and Missing Youth

- Who are the teens ?
- Where do they do they stay in your community?
- Community partners that our teens trust?
- How to reach out?
- Within 48 hours they will be solicited for sex.
- WATCH A CLIP FROM HOMESTRETCH

The Vulnerable

- Runaway, missing, and homeless teens
- Mental health issues
- Low functioning teens
- Alcohol and drug dependent teens
- Poor
- LGBT teens and young Adults
- http://portal.cleveland-oh.gov/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/PublicSafety/Division%20of%20Police/MissingPerson

What does it mean to ENGAGE a teen and family?

- How do you define it?
- The bond forms from trust and confidence that the tasks will bring the client closer to his or her goals.
- To engage:
- To Listen, To Talk, To Assess Immediate Needs, To be non-judgment, To Be Open Hearted, To Be in the moment,
- TO BE WHERE THE TEEN IS AT!

LGBT Teens

- Acceptance and Safety

LGBT

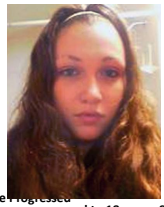
- 20% of homeless youth are LGBT. In comparison, the general youth population is only 10% LGBT.
- While homeless youth typically experience severe family conflict as the primary reason for their homelessness, LGBT youth are twice as likely to experience sexual abuse before the age of 12.
- LGBT youth, once homeless, are at higher risk for victimization, mental health problems, and unsafe sexual practices. 58.7% of LGBT homeless youth have been sexually victimized compared to 33.4% of heterosexual homeless youth
- LGBT youth are roughly 7.4 times more likely to experience acts of sexual violence than heterosexual homeless youth
- **LGBT homeless youth commit suicide at higher rates (62%) than heterosexual homeless youth (29%)**

- Bellefaire works very closely with the LGBT Center.
- Bellefaire HYP has seen an increase in transgender youth calls

National Missing and Exploited Children

- **Endangered Missing**
- **ASHLEY SUMMERS**

- **DOB:** Jun 16, 1993
Age Now: 19
Missing: Jul 9, 2007
Missing From:
CLEVELAND
OH
United States
Sex: Female
Race: White
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue
Height: 5'5" (165cm)
Weight: 130lbs (59kg) **Age-Progressed**



Ashley's photo is shown age-progressed to 18 years. She was last seen on July 9, 2007. Ashley has a tattoo of "Gene" and a heart on her right arm. ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)
Cleveland Police Department (Ohio) 1-216-623-5005 or Your Local FBI

Risk factors associated with running away

- STI's
- Turning to survival sex within 48 hours
- Pregnancy
- Drugs and alcohol use and abuse
- Truancy
- Poor Communication – Take off attitude
- Fight or flight reactions
- Mental health crisis- no medication, selling or stolen
- Transient to survive
- ***Invisible to most people***

Creating Safe Spaces and Identifying the Right Staff

- **Where to you meet teens?**
- **Bellefaire JCB's model- We are a virtual shelter. We meet you where you are at.**
- **Assess for safety at all times**
- **Work in collaboration with police, community partners, families, neighbors, schools, and the teen/young adult identified support system.**

Assessment towards engagement

- Where do you stay?
- Who do you stay with?
- No where do you live? Who are your mom and dad? These are not givens for our teens.
- How can I help?
- What do you need to succeed?
- Clear achievable goals
- Always assessing for safety and immediate needs.

Bellefaire's Street Outreach Program

- **Be safe. Stay off the streets.**
- **Run with your feelings - not your feet.**
- **21 or younger? Talk to us.**
- **We'll help you find alternatives.**
- **WHERE TO FIND US...**
- drop-in
- **St. Paul's Church**
- 4427 Franklin Blvd., Cleveland
- Corner of Franklin & W. 45th Street
- **SATURDAYS 1:00pm-4:00PM**
- Thursdays 5:00-10:00pm

National Safe Place on RTA

- **What is Safe Place?**
- *"Until our streets are safe…*
  Until families can understand each other…
  Until drugs and violence disappear…
  Until no young person needs to run away or feel afraid…
  There must be Safe Place."
- Safe Place is a national youth outreach program that educates thousands of young people every year about the dangers of running away or trying to resolve difficult, threatening situations on their own. This easily-replicated initiative involves the whole community to provide safe havens and resources for youth in crisis.
- Cleveland has a transit Safe Place.

Human Trafficking :

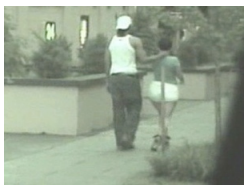
The use of force, fraud, and coercion to compel a person into any form of work or service against their will.

- **Human Trafficking Defined:**
- (A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000
- "Severe Forms of Trafficking" defined at (22 USC §7102; 8 CFR §214.11(a)).

Children are at risk!

- **Children under the age of 18 are especially vulnerable to human trafficking.**
- **Average age to be brought in and sold is between 12-14.**

RECOGNIZE
Power and Control



RESPECT

Who Are the Victims?

ANYONE

Trafficking victims may be undocumented immigrants, legal immigrants, or even U.S. citizens.

- Domestic workers/Nannies
- Farm
- Hair braiders
- Includes men, women, children and families.
- Massage parlors
- Nail salon workers
- Sex workers

Who can be traffickers?

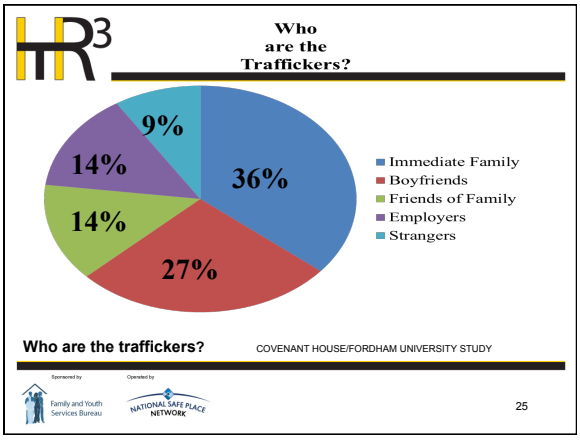
- **Who Are the Traffickers?**
- **Organized criminal syndicates**
- **Often smuggling routes are identical**
- **Parents**
- **Employers**
- **Drug suppliers**
- **Local gangs**
- **Friends and intimate partners**
- **"Mom and Pop" organizations**
- **Labor subcontractors**
- **Pimps**
- **Diplomats**
- **Coyotes-smugglers from Mexico to US**
  Snakeheads-smugglers from Asia to US

Work Sites

- **Hotel**
- **Domestic Pimp Control** - house parties
- **Massage Parlors, Spas**
- **Residential Brothels &Escort Delivery Services**
- **Exotic Dancing, Stripping,**
- **Pornography**
- **Intimate Partner/Familial Trafficking**
- **Hostess Clubs, Cantina Bars**
- **On-line Exploitation, Craigslist, Backpage, etc.**
- **The streets (begging)**
- **Home (servile Marriage)**
- **Factories**
- **Transportation hubs (drug mules)**

How are the teens controlled?

- Psychological abuses
- •Beatings, burnings, sexual abuse, and starvation- Gorilla Pimps
- •Isolation
- •Threats of deportation
- •Threats against the victim's family members
- •Drug/alcohol dependency
- •Withholding of documents
- •Debt
- •Other examples?



Assessing Immediate Needs

- •Housing (unaccompanied / family)
- •Food, clothing and personal necessities
- •Medical care
- •Mental health care
- •Life skills
- •Legal representation

National Resources

- **NATIONAL HUMANTRAFFICKING**
- **RESOURCE CENTER(NHTRC)**
- **Toll-free 24/7 National Hotline**
- **1-888-373-7888**
- **National Missing and Exploited Children**
- **National Runaway Switchboard**
- **1-800-run-away**

Services in Cuyahoga County

- Bellefaire's Homeless and Missing Youth Program
- Bellefaire's Street Outreach Program
- Cleveland Rape Crisis- Project STAR
- 211
- Centralized Intake Cosgrove Center on Superior
- Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking
- FBI- Task Force for violent crimes
- Explore all points of entry with your survivors and community partners. OPEN ALL DOORS FOR RECOVERY..

FBI

- Call if you are fearful for a teen
- 216-522-1400
- Pass the number on to others in the community.
- Be the eyes and ears for our victims

How can you help?

#lookagainCLE

www.bjcb.org

LIKE AND SHARE!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zrfe3VaHBaw

Thank You

- Please be aware of the warning signs/look beneath the surface!
- Always remember these teens are ***victims*** of their situation.
- Call for help or support 24/7- 216-570-8010 and 211 First Call for Help.