



nevada partnership for homeless youth



2007 - 2008
*Annual
Report*



nevada partnership for homeless youth

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MISSION STATEMENT

To Eliminate Homelessness Among Nevada's Youth.

VISION

All homeless youth in Nevada share the same opportunities for a quality future
enjoyed by others in our community.

INTRODUCTION TO MATT HIRSCH



Matt Hirsch comes to the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth with a passion for empowering our youth and a background in both corporate and non-profit management.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Matt received a BA in International Relations from Brown University and an MA from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

Fascinated by foreign cultures, languages and international politics, Matt enjoyed a career in International Peace and Development in the 1980s and early 1990s. His studies and work with two NGO's took him to Paris (1982-83), many parts of the former Soviet Union (1985-88), and Prague (1990-91). One of Matt's most rewarding experiences during this period was piloting a youth program for the Experiment in International Living, leading a diverse group of teenagers on a summer-long journey of cultural and self-discovery through Russia.

Deciding to settle down in New York, Matt joined Morgan Stanley at its headquarters in 1992, beginning a 12-year career developing marketing communications services for the company's senior management and investment banking teams worldwide. Matt enjoyed a management position at Morgan Stanley, building a small department that set high standards for service and accountability. It was during this period, in 1996, that Matt met the love of his life, Magda, who is a native of Poland. They married in 1998.

In 2004, Matt and Magda decided to move to Las Vegas, making a lifestyle change and leaving New York behind. Both felt a powerful call to community service. Matt went to work for Goodwill of Southern Nevada, where he managed merchandise processing operations. He was later promoted to Director of Operations, responsible for Goodwill's donation sites, warehouse and store operations before joining the Partnership in January 2008. With Magda, Matt is active in his church community and enjoys hiking throughout the Southwest.

As Executive Director of the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, Matt is deeply committed to carrying out the mission and vision established by its founder, Kathleen Boutin, and its dedicated Board of Directors. Under Matt's leadership, the Partnership will continue to provide urgently needed quality services to homeless youth through its Safe Place 24-hour Mobile Crisis Intervention Program, Safe Place Drop-In Center, Street Outreach and Independent Living Program.

PROGRAMS

Street Outreach Team

The NPHY Street Outreach Program provides crisis intervention, referrals, hygiene packets, food vouchers, and other life sustaining supplies to homeless youth on the streets in Southern Nevada, many of whom have been subjected to or are at risk of sexual exploitation or abuse. The main goal of outreach is to develop a rapport with youth and connect them with programs and supportive services that will assist in ending their situation of homelessness.

Safe Place

Safe Place is a 24-hour crisis intervention program available to any youth in crisis at over 400 locations, including all Terrible Herbst convenience stores, CAT buses, and City of Las Vegas fire stations. The program is implemented where any youth in crisis can walk into a Safe Place location and receive immediate help for any reason. Once the program is accessed, a NPHY case manager is dispatched to the Safe Place location to complete an assessment, provide emotional support, and address the immediate safety needs of each youth.

Safe Place Drop-In Center

The Safe Place Drop-In Center serves as the hub for NPHY's programs and services. The center is open five days a week, nine hours a day and houses a shower, food pantry, clothing closet, computer lab, classroom, and respite room. Supportive services offered on-site include rental and utility assistance, case management, shelter placement, employment and educational assistance, counseling, family reunification services, food, school supplies, and hygiene products.



Independent Living Program

The Independent Living Program is a 16-bed transitional housing program for homeless youth, ages 16 through 17, that work or attend school full-time. Youth in the program live in condominiums within walking distance of the Safe Place Drop-In Center and are required to make daily contact with their case manager. Through this frequent contact, youth and case manager develop a case plan by which youth set and work toward goals focused on the long-term goal of self-sufficiency. NPHY pays all living expenses for each youth in the program.

Operation Go Home

When appropriate, family reunification is a critical element in ending the destitute and harsh realities of street life for homeless youth. Operation Go Home is a program that provides for the cost of bus or airplane tickets to anywhere in North America when youth have a safe and supportive place to live with a responsible relative. Our licensed professional staff members are on hand 24-hours a day to assist youth with the family reunification process by providing family mediation support, immediate transportation to local airports and bus depots, and a paid ticket home.

“Now I know where to go if I am in trouble, and I also know I can take someone else who needs help.”

- Maria

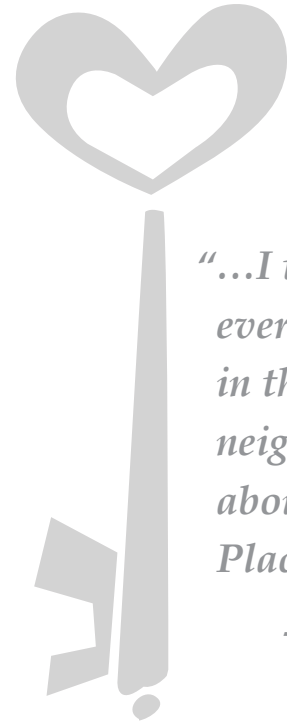
2007 - 2008 PROGRAM STATISTICS

Street Outreach workers provided information and referral services and/or basic needs items to **2,382** youth on the streets of Southern Nevada.

The **Safe Place and Mobile Crisis Intervention Team** programs served **57** youth in crisis. Over **11,208** program outreach cards were distributed throughout the year.

The **Safe Place Drop-In Center** received **2,908** visits by **354** youth seeking respite care and supportive services.

The **Independent Living** program provided **2,334** bed nights to **26** youth on the road to self-sufficiency.

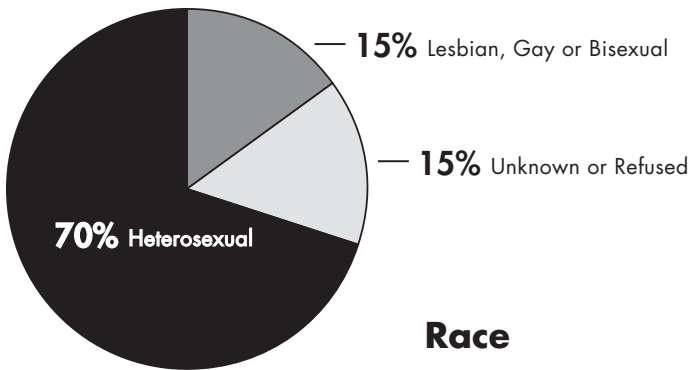


"...I told everyone in the neighborhood about Safe Place."

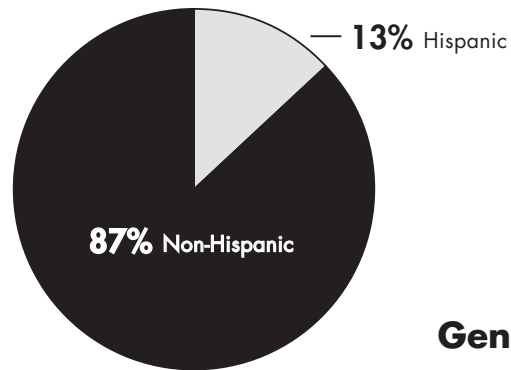
- Leslie

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

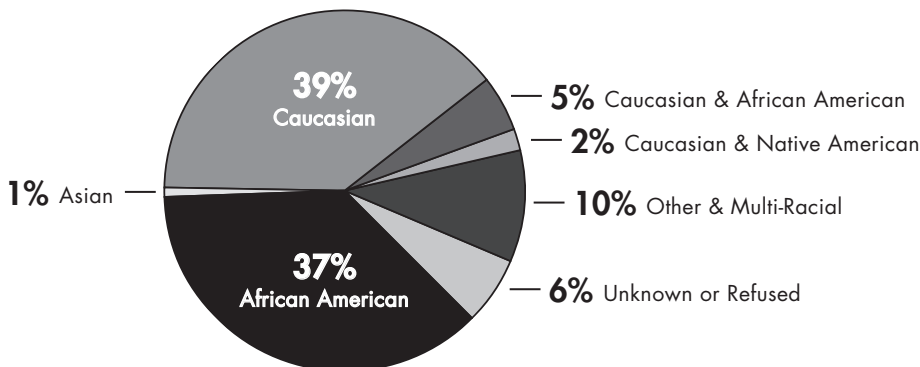
Sexual Orientation



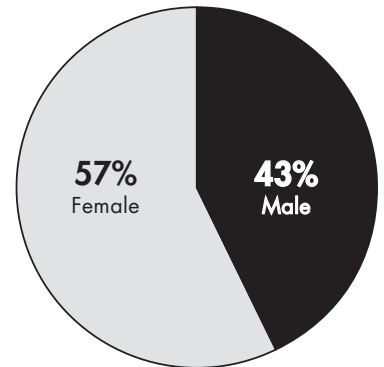
Ethnicity



Race



Gender



2007 - 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

Garden Party

Our first Garden Party was held on October 21, 2007 at the beautiful home of Joe Lamarca and Larry Doyle. Over 70 guests enjoyed light food and refreshments while learning about our new drop-in center and reviewing architectural sketches of its future location. .

Girls Program in Henderson

November 2007 marked the grand opening of our transitional housing program in Henderson. We held a special ribbon cutting ceremony on-site and invited guests to tour the three newly remodeled condominium units. The units provide shelter for up to nine homeless young women, ages 16 through 17, who work or attend school full-time.

Angel Tree Holiday Program

The holidays were a very busy season for us this past year. In partnership with Title 1 HOPE, we were able to provide gifts to 200 homeless youth through our angel tree holiday program. In mid-December, 50 of these youth visited the Safe Place Drop-In Center to open their gifts and enjoy pizza and special holiday treats. Thank you to all of our generous donors who made this possible.

Barbara Buckley Roast

Nearly 300 guests gathered at Bally's Las Vegas on April 19, 2008 to attend the Roasting of Barbara Buckley. Attendees enjoyed a silent auction and cocktail reception followed by dinner, a live auction, and, of course, a roast. Over \$200,000 was raised to support the Partnership's mission "to eliminate homelessness among Nevada's youth."

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“...I have been going to Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth for about eight months. When I came into the program I had nothing, but they helped me get my birth certificate and my social security card, and then I finally got my identification card...I would [like to] personally thank all the staff for helping me get my life on track. I would like to let all of the struggling teens out there know that there is a place [where] you can get help.”

- Chris



nevada partnership for homeless youth

Safe Place Drop-In Center:
4800 S Maryland Pkwy, Suite E
Las Vegas, NV 89119

702.383.1332

Hours of operation:
Mon - Fri, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

www.nevadahomelessyouth.org