

National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth

<http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/publications/exchange/0906/index.htm>

Youth Homelessness in Today's Tough Economy

The 12-year-old boy came because his grandmother's home in the Florida Keys was foreclosed. With his mom in prison and the whereabouts of his father unknown, he had no choice but to seek services at a runaway and homeless youth program.

Then there were the two brothers who were living in a car with their mother after she lost her job and subsequently, their home. She sent them to a shelter so they could get three square meals every day. Theirs was a happy ending: Mom found a new job and an apartment within three weeks, and they were reunified.

More unfortunate was the 14-year-old girl from San Diego County who ran away from home due to the turmoil caused by money troubles. She's been repeatedly picked up for prostitution.

Around the country, runaway and homeless youth organizations are facing the challenge of accommodating more youth as a result of the current economic downturn. The relentless surge of home foreclosures, massive unemployment, stifling consumer debt and bankruptcies are conspiring to break up families and force more young people to the streets, youth workers say.

"Unfortunately, there has been a drastic increase" in young people needing emergency shelter, says Maria Mayola, director of community relations for Covenant House Florida in Orlando. "For two and a half to three months, we were well over capacity. We have been making special arrangements, using our chapel to accommodate more youth. For the first time in our history, we are operating off a waiting list."

Steve Jella, associate executive director of San Diego Youth Services, says he's seen a marked increase in youth seeking services for a variety of reasons, most of which can be associated with our troubled economy.

"Some of the programs I serve here focus on the eastern part of our county, which encompasses urban and rural areas. We're noticing a lot of trends. [One community] has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the county and at the same time, it also has the highest rate of where parolees go. So there are a lot of youth and families that we traditionally serve now coming in with significantly more severe problems," he says.

More youth need mental-health care, which Jella attributes to high-stress environments in the home. More are coming for quick fixes: a much-needed bed for two to four nights while families get help. With unprecedented numbers of layoffs in the area as well, he says that schools and the police are referring youth to his organization more frequently after they turn up for delinquent behavior. Because of the multiple streams through which youth come, the economy can sometimes be a hidden contributor.

How Big is the Problem?

Some areas of the country have not seen increases in young clients, but networks of youth-serving professionals are certainly talking about it.

We have seen an increase in families coming to us requesting temporary assistance for them or their children because of the economy, but we're trying to track this so that it's not just anecdotal," says Stephen Bardy, executive director of Safe Harbor Runaway Center, in West Palm Beach, Florida, which runs a street outreach program and a basic center program. Ten of the basic center's 16 beds were filled at the writing of this article.

"I'm hearing a lot of it," says Bardy, referring to his colleagues talking about the economy driving more youth to their shelters. "I'm not sure we're seeing it. But because it's happened and we've not experienced this before, more people are talking about it, and in talking about people are making it larger."

Indeed media reports have tracked decreases in youth homelessness in pockets around the country, but the problem is real—and growing, says Steve Berg, vice president for programs and policy for the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Part of the difficulty in knowing how many youth have recently become homeless lies in the fact that youth have always been more difficult to count than adults. Many don't want to be found. But so far the scant data from schools and other organizations tracking trends matches the anecdotal evidence that youth workers are talking about, he says.

Swell in Numbers Takes Toll on Agency Services

A study produced late last year by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and First Focus found 459 districts reported an increase in the number of homeless students served.

Many homeless students are middle class youth who've never had "system" exposure. Parents seek emergency care while the family gets settled. But others have troubled backgrounds, with substance abuse in the home and trouble at school, which when combined with economic problems, force them out of their homes. Particularly at risk are older youth, sometimes called throwaways, who may be left to fend for themselves when a family falls on hard times.

The rise in the number of children needing help is also creating more financial pressures on agencies facing budget cuts. In areas hardest hit by the recession, such as Florida and California, youth workers report an uptick of more than 25 percent in new youth seeking services.

"I think some programs are really going to be decimated," says Vicki Wagner, president of the National Network 4 Youth, which has been tracking data on youth homelessness for a New York Times piece in development. "This isn't being talked about much, but there will be a huge increase in need."

Get Ready, Help is Coming

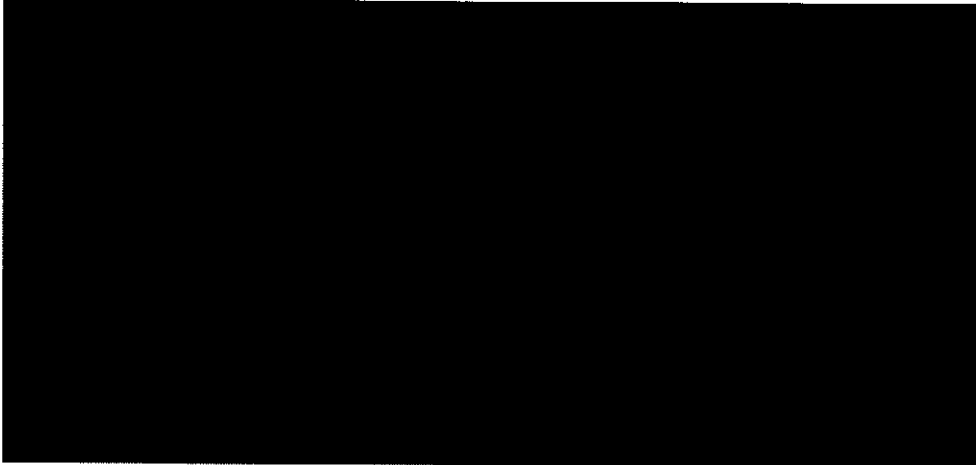
The good news, says Berg, is that help is on the way in the form of the federal stimulus package, which is slated to put \$1.5 billion into preventing homelessness



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Whether you are looking for help or wanting to help, the National Runaway Switchboard has the resources you're looking for.

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Jersey Shore

Tuesday, December 8th, 2009 11:46am

Last week, MTV premiered a brand new reality series entitled "Jersey Shore." The show places eight young people in one house filled with bronzed bodies, hair gel, and of course... a hot tub. Mix the aforementioned with heaps of alcohol, and viewers are assured one blissful hour of quality reality entertainment.

With the premiere of [...]

Parent Arguments

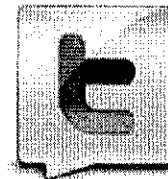
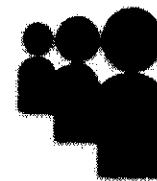
Monday, December 7th, 2009 3:13pm

Whether the arguments may be between two parents or between the parents and the child, either way it is detrimental for the child — especially if the child begins to understand the contents of their parents' bicker. Of course, one can easily see how arguments with the parents can affect the child — not many [...]

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A Guide for Deciding YGAB's Grant Initiative

1. Which community issues did the NONPROFITS believe were the most important in Mobile and Baldwin Counties?

- What type of organizations do you think will help meet these needs?

2. What do YOU believe are the most important problems or issues?

- What type of organizations do you think will help meet these needs?

3. Which problems would our DONORS want to help?

- What type of organizations do you think will help meet these needs?

Lesson 1: How Should I Begin? Handout 1

Categories and Subject Areas of Interest

Arts, Culture, and Humanities

Performing arts; cultural and ethnic awareness; folk art; traditional art; art education; media and communication; film and video; television; visual arts; photography; painting and drawing; museums; history; natural history; science and technology; sports and hobbies; performing arts; theater; music groups; circus; languages; religion; historic preservation; genealogy

Education and Research

Educational institutions; bilingual, vocational, gifted, or special education programs; professional organizations; libraries; drop-out prevention and remedial programs; parent teacher groups

Environment and Animals

Pollution; recycling; global warming; conservation; energy; forests and plants; environment; outdoor survival; animal protection and welfare; wildlife preservation; protection of endangered species; zoos; animal hospitals

Health and Human Services

Hospitals, clinics and medical care facilities; baby and infant centers; blood banks; organ banks; public health programs; health care programs; nursing and convalescent care; alcohol, drug and substance abuse; crisis hot lines; counseling and support groups; specific diseases; pediatrics; crime and delinquency prevention; dangerous weapons control; drunk driving; law enforcement; child and spousal abuse; employment programs; care of soil and water; farm preservation; food banks; Meals on Wheels; public housing; senior citizens; shelters; disaster relief; public safety; recreation and leisure groups; parks, playgrounds, sporting facilities and leagues; Special Olympics; youth centers and clubs; scouting; American Red Cross; YMCA; YWCA; Hospice.

International

Cultural exchange and understanding; exchange students; development and relief services; agricultural and economic development; peace and security; arms control; international organizations; foreign policy; trade; human rights; migration and refugee issues.

Public, Societal Benefit — Civic/Community (neighborhood beautification, transportation, better parks)

Civil rights; equal opportunity; women's rights; voter education; freedom of speech, press,

Recreation



**Youth Grant Allocation Board
2009 Grant Initiative
The Community Foundation of South Alabama**

The Youth Grant Allocation Board (YGAB) of The Community Foundation of South Alabama is a board of selected sophomores, juniors, and seniors from many public and private high schools in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Through training and direction by The Community Foundation's staff, YGAB performs the same function of CFSA's own grant committee, assessing needs within our counties, developing an initiative, reviewing grant applications, making site visits and selecting recipients.

Upon assessing needs within the two counties, YGAB formally announces its 2009 grant initiative for **Teen Mentoring Programs** to address lack of motivation and self esteem among youth as reflected in the high percentage of school drop outs, students leaving our area, and young adult unemployment or underemployment.

Up to **\$15,000** may be available, dependent upon fundraising.

Application deadline: **February 2, 2009**. Electronic and original applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. at our office that day. Postmarks do not apply. **No applications accepted after 4:30 p.m.**

These grant initiatives are open to qualified nonprofit organizations with an IRS 501(c)(3) tax determination and to government agencies within **Baldwin and Mobile Counties**.

Grants are drawn from the YGAB Endowment and the Community Endowment to which the public donates through the Sustaining Membership program.

TEEN MENTORING PROGRAMS CRITERIA

- Open to nonprofit organizations within Mobile and Baldwin Counties.
- Programs utilize peer mentoring among high schools and middle schools.
- Programs promote self esteem, character building, life skills, and personal responsibility.
- Programs provide guidance for educational paths for careers.
- Programs can be new or existing; if new, must provide evidence of similar successful programs.
- Not for bricks and mortar.

1. How do I apply?

Please download the application from the YGAB page on our website. Be sure to follow all directions on the application itself. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please **email** the completed application and attachments in a **pdf file** to program@communityendowment.com by **February 1, 2009**. You must also **MAIL** to us the **original AND six copies of the signed, complete application with attachments** that must be received by our office no later than 4:30 p.m. on the same date. You should 3-hole punch all material. Do not send material in any folders or binders or stapled. They may be clipped.

2. How is the grantmaking conducted?

YGAB develops and publicizes a Request for Proposals (RFP) in December. After the deadline, the committee will review all qualifying applications and make site visits, if necessary. Evaluations will be based upon the following criteria: the completeness of the application, the weight of the need, and the impact of the program/agency. In some cases, follow-up visits by YGAB and/or The Foundation staff will be made to observe the applicant and its program/project. Once the committee selects recipients, recommendations will be forwarded to the Grant Distribution Committee and the Board of Directors for approval. At that time, recipients will be contacted and grants awarded in May 2009. Recipients are required to attend the award ceremony.

3. Requirements of grant recipients:

- Sign and return a Grant Agreement.
- Acknowledge YGAB of The Community Foundation as a sponsor of the project or program.
- Submit a grant report due by **March 1, 2010**, including evidence of the grant acknowledgement.

4. No grants are made to or for:

- Individuals
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- National fundraising drives
- Conference or seminar expenses
- Tickets for charity benefits
- Political organizations or candidates for public office
- Lobbying activities
- Scholarship funds or endowment funds of another charity
- Budget deficits

5. How can I learn about next year's grant information?

The best time to learn about the upcoming goals of YGAB is to visit the Community Foundation's website www.communityendowment.org in December or you can contact The Community Foundation's Program Officer at (251) 438-5591 to request information and learn any new details. Or you may write to The Community Foundation of South Alabama, P.O. Box 990, Mobile, Alabama, 36601.



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GRANT INITIATIVE

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- _____
- _____
- _____
- Programs can be new or existing; if new, must provide evidence of similar successful programs.
- Not for bricks and mortar.

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Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

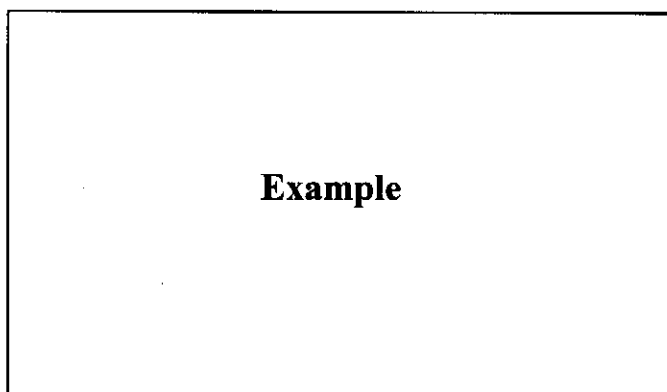
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Ad Size: 3.5 x 2 in (+/-)

Actual Size Example:



Business Card Advertisement Cost: **\$100**

Advertisement Run Date: June 2010

Make checks payable to: The Community Foundation of South Alabama
Earmarked for the YGAB Newsletter
P.O. Box 990, Mobile, AL 36601

Advertisement order due to CFSA for print in YGAB Newsletter by: **March 19, 2010**

YGAB Member responsible for advertisement order: _____

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