

# RESOURCES FOR **RUNAWAY YOUTH**



## **Do you know a child threatening to run away from home?**

Most children who become runaways are running away from a problem they don't know how to solve. They may be running from unhappy or unsafe homes. They may have problems at school or in their neighborhood. Unfortunately, there are no clear warning signs.

Runaways make up the largest category of missing children. These boys and girls may think they are leaving their problems behind, but they are likely to find more trouble on the streets, such as drugs and prostitution or become victims of violent crimes.

Are you aware of resources that may help a troubled child or teen who is considering leaving home?

The National Runaway Safeline (NRS) offers a 24-hour hotline, 1-800-RUNAWAY. It also offers trained crisis intervention specialists to help troubled children talk to

their parents during a three-way conference call. Parents and guardians can also speak with someone at the NRS. Calls are confidential. Learn more at <http://www.1800runaway.org>.

**The Safe Place Program** is another resource with a national toll-free hotline at **1-800-RUNAWAY**.

**For immediate help, a girl or boy can text the word **SAFE** and his or her street address, city and state to **69866**.**

Within seconds, the runaway will learn the location of the closest Safe Place and contact number for a local youth shelter. *Texting with a mental health professional for more help will also be an option. Learn more at <http://nationalsafeplace.org>.*

**Troubled teens who are considering running away, or those who have already left home, need to know help is available. It's a phone call away.**