



# a picture of hope

## fact sheet



Covenant House Michigan provides homeless, runaway and at-risk youth ages 13-22, with shelter, educational and vocational programs as well as other support services to help them overcome hurdles such as homelessness, unemployment, inadequate education, violence, drugs and gangs and redirect them onto a path toward meaningful and successful adulthood.

### Over 5,000 youth sleep on the streets of Michigan any given night.

They have been thrown away by their families and society. They are looking for a way out.

Kids try escaping **neglect** and **abuse** at home by running away. Others are **abandoned** or kicked out by families who don't want to deal with them. Many age out of foster care and have no one and nowhere to turn. Several are struggling to cope with mental illnesses and fall into a cycle of desperation.

### The streets become their home.

They hang out on street corners, 'Couch Surf' - crash for short periods with friends or relatives, 'squat' - sleep in abandoned buildings or in vehicles, scrounge through dumpsters or engage in petty theft simply to stay fed. Seeing little hope in their future, they quit school and eventually fall victim to gangs, prostitution, drug dealing, and other criminal activity.

### Their stories are heartbreaking.

In Fiscal Year 2007, the Covenant House Neline (1-800-999-9999) received 544,000 crisis calls from youth. The Neline enables youth in crisis to receive free and immediate help throughout the United States. Some of the services offered are instant referrals to the nearest shelter, counseling to prevent them from running away or assistance in returning home, if needed.

### They need our help!

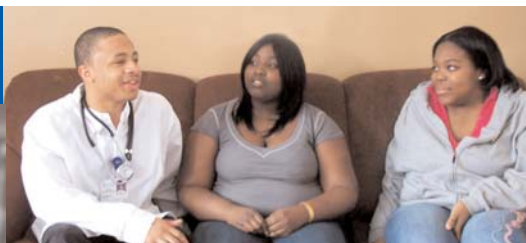
Covenant House began as a small shelter on the lower east side of Manhattan in 1969. It was incorporated in 1972 and has grown to be the largest privately-funded child care agency in the United States. It has helped over 800,000 youth in high-risk situations find acceptance, guidance, nurturing, and shelter through programs in 21 centers throughout North and Central America. (11 States and the District of Columbia, 2 in Canada, 5 in Central America).

Covenant House Michigan (CHM) opened in September of 1997 and has become known to Michigan's youth as a place they can come to find hope, respect and unconditional love. Our programs provide a continuum of services that seek to holistically meet the needs of at-risk young adults.



love

hope



respect





## Covenant House Michigan currently operates the following programs:



**Crisis Center** - is a 45-bed shelter that offers hot food, a shower, clean clothes and a warm bed to kids who are on the streets and in crisis. The Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Youth can stay from 1 day to 3 months and have access to the Community Service Centers and Covenant House Life Skills Centers.

- Youth Served - **1,971** - Average length of stay - **72 days** - Average age - **20 years old**.

**Rights of Passage (ROP)** - provides long-term transitional housing for youth 18-22 years of age who demonstrate the desire to turn their life around and make a transition from street life to productive adulthood and independent living.

The 30-bed co-ed program provides youth shelter at nominal rent, which is returned when they leave, helps youth finds full-time employment and connects them with a mentor. Residents are part of a caring, supportive community that offers them options for coping with everyday issues in their lives.

- Youth Served - **512**

**The Street Outreach Team** - provides counseling and referral services to homeless and at-risk youth on the streets of Metro Detroit. The Outreach Team has identified hundreds of disconnected kids living in abandoned houses, cars, vans, and makeshift structures.

- Youth Contacts - **35,141**

**Community Service Centers** - are located on the east and southwest sides of Detroit, and serve at-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 22. Services include individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, life skills workshops, violence prevention, parenting skills for young mothers and fathers, mentoring programs, ESL (English as a second language) instruction, workshops to enhance spiritual values and substance abuse prevention.

- Youth Served - **34,534** - Female - **42%** - Male - **58%** - 6-17 years of age - **61%** - 18-22 years of age - **39%**.  
African American - **83%** - Hispanic - **12%** - Caucasian - **5%**.  
This fiscal year, **4,854** youth received services at the two centers.

**Education** - Over 90% of youth in CHM's residential programs are high school dropouts. CHM collaborated with the Detroit Public Schools and White Hat Management Co. to open three charter schools to offer high school dropouts and at-risk youth a diploma. Each school has a capacity of 350 students. GED preparation is offered on CHM's main campus for youth who are unable to attend the Life Skills Centers.

- Covenant House Life Skills Graduates - **162** - GED Graduates - **446** - Higher Education - **371**

**Job Development** - Most youth who come to CHM are unemployed. The job development program offers residents job seeking skills, placement and job counseling. This safe, consistent and productive environment offers young adults, ages 18-22, the skills assessment, career exploration, job development, personal coaching, employment placement, and other employment services that are paramount to their future success.

- Placed in jobs - over **2,525**

**Covenant House Needs Your Help**  
Donate - Volunteer - Advocate - Pray

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