

Roadmap to Graduation

“Last year I took in a foreign
exchange student from Palmyra”

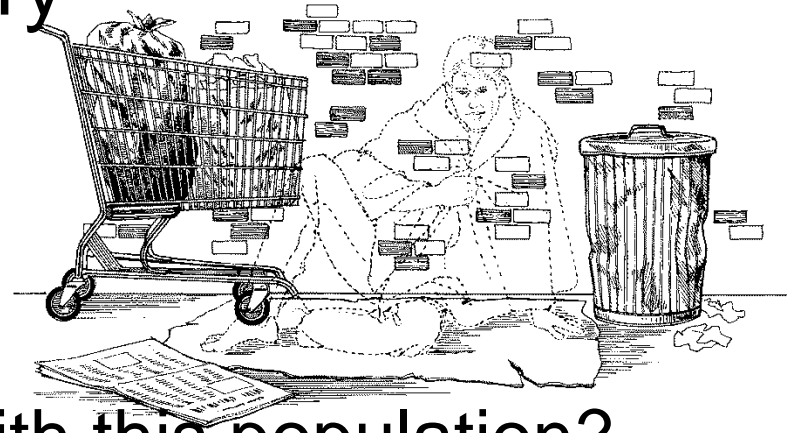
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1. Identifying the problem

- Gather data – tell the story
- Needs assessments
 - What are the resources?
 - What are the holes?
 - Who is already working with this population?
 - Know what committees you need to be on.



Quantitative and Qualitative Data

- 80% of runaway and homeless girls reported having ever been sexually or physically abused. 34% of runaway youth (girls and boys) reported sexual abuse before leaving home and 43% of runaway youth (girls and boys) reported physical abuse before leaving home.

Molnar, B., Shade, S., Kral, A., Booth, R., Watters, J. (1998) Suicidal Behavior and Sexual/Physical Abuse Among Street Youth. *Child Abuse and Neglect*. Vol. 22, NO. 3, pp. 213-222

- 32% of runaway and homeless youth have attempted suicide at some point in their lives.
- 12% of runaway and homeless youth spent at least one night outside, in a park, on the street, under a bridge or overhang.

Westat, Inc. 1997. National Evaluation of Runaway and Homeless Youth. Washington DC: US Dept of HHS, Admin on Children, Youth and Families.

Lenawee County Data

- 704 homeless students in 2014-2015 school year
- 272 were homeless unaccompanied youth

Here are just a few of their stories...



“There is no love for me. No one cares for me.
When my mother died...there is no love for me,
but me. I’ve got to love myself.”

--an Adrian High School student



“I don’t want to ask for help. I want to do it myself. But I ain’t got no family. How are you supposed to do it without a family. I don’t know how to do things. How do you go to the dentist? Do you just go? Where do you go? Do you call first? Do they want money? I have a Medicaid card, but no money. How are you suppose to know how to go to the dentist when you got no family?” --a Lenawee County high school student



“I stayed in a barn. I stayed in an aluminum shed with a little heater somebody gave me. I had a pile of blankets and I was always afraid they would catch fire and I’d die. I kinda felt like I did die, like I was dead. Then I came here and now I am back in school. Its hard, but its ok. I have a place now. Its really hard. But it is ok now. I’m not dying, you know?” --a homeless 17 year old in Adrian



“I don’t want to ask for help. I’ll be ok. I will be fine.
Do you know where I can stay tonight...if...you
know...I can’t stay anyplace else?”

--a 17 year old at Adrian High School



“Its good to have shampoo in your backpack when you don’t know where you are going to sleep tonight.” --17 year old Adrian High School student



“There is no one to wake me in the morning. I have to figure out how to get in to school on time. I miss the bus and its a long walk.”

--an Adrian High School senior



“You can always get canned green beans from the food pantries. Just pour real hot water from the sink through them and they are ok to eat. It kinda warms them up. Mix in Ramen noodles and you have dinner.” 18 year old student at Adrian High School



“I want to graduate. I have to graduate.
It is my only way out.”

--18 year old homeless student at Adrian High School.
She graduated in 2007 and is attending college.

2. The Homeless Youth Committee

- Department of Human Services
- Child Protective Services
- Criminal Justice
- Community Mental Health
- Runaway and Homeless Youth contractor
- Shelters
- Continuum of Care
- Faith Community
- Employment agencies
- Special education directors



3. Roadmap to Graduation

- Find a community partner
- Mentor homes, mentoring 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.
- Seniors on track to graduate
- Power of Attorney if under 18
- Use family and friends as well as recruiting homes – “old” foster care homes
- Monthly stipend

Funding

- Service clubs – Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.
- Faith based funding
- Mentoring funding
- ARRA funding
- Individual contributions
- Drop out prevention
- Suicide prevention
- Social Security

Cost of Teen Pregnancy

- **\$1,430:** The average annual cost to taxpayers associated with a child born to a teen mother aged 19 and younger.
- **\$4,080:** The average annual cost to taxpayers associated with a child born to a teen mother aged 17 and younger.
- **\$8.6 billion:** The public costs of childbearing to teens aged 17 and younger.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
www.teenpregnancy.org/costs

Cost of dropping out of high school:

“A new report out by the Alliance for Excellent Education (November 18, 2009) states the nation’s economy would have benefited from almost \$335 billion in additional income if the high school students that dropped out of the Class of 2009 had graduated. **Over \$292,000 is the cost incurred by taxpayers for each dropout over their lifetime** in terms of lost earnings and therefore lower taxes paid and higher spending for social costs including incarceration, health care, and welfare.”

Cost of incarceration:

- “It estimated states spent a record \$51.7 billion on corrections in fiscal year 2008 and incarcerating one inmate cost them, on average, \$29,000 a year.”

Reuters: Washington DC | Mon Mar 2, 2009 2:49pm EST

The cost of 1 student in *Roadmap to Graduation*

- \$300 a month
- \$2700 a year

What is graduation worth?

Success Rate

- 100 % Graduation rate
- 87% attend college
- 100 % employment rate