

Homeless Youth: the Face of Vulnerability and Prostitution

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There are 1.5 to almost 2 million homeless youth in America. This talk will look at who makes up this unique group. This will include typology, at-risk factors, and issues of identity and abuse. The most vulnerable members of this group also have the highest degree of participation in “survival sex.” The presentation will look at who these young people are, how they differ and how they are similar to others who participate in survival sex. The presentation will provide strategies for working with this challenging population. Finally they will be given a face. The experience of working with these young men and women on the streets will be shared. We are called upon to serve the least among us. Certainly our young brothers and sisters on the streets are among this group.

The Problem: Homeless Youth and Vulnerability

The Big Picture: 100 million homeless youth in the world today

WHO (World Health Organization): Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Europe and North America
US Aid categories

The local Picture: Homeless Youth in the United States and in Chicago

National Law Center on Homelessness

Conference on Mayors

Chicago Homeless

Chicago homeless youth

Vulnerabilities of Homeless Youth

The numbers

What they learn

Power differential and similarities to female prostitution

Needs and Local Assets:

Research: Homeless Youth and Sexual Exploitation: National Alliance to End Homelessness,
Homelessness Pulse Project 2010, Youth Reentry Taskforce Report 2009

Typologies

Characteristics of Homeless Youth and Implications for a Response

Ministering to Homeless Youth:

- I. Ministry vs. Treatment
 - II. Know yourself, boundaries and team approach
 - III. Self-care:
 - a. how am I broken?
 - b. balanced faith-centered life
 - c. realistic, measurable goals for you
 - IV. Holistic approach
- Holistic:
- I. Belonging: “House” movement
 - II. Work: New Mexico Study
 - III. Love and Intimacy:
 - a. Survival sex
 - b. STD
 - c. Identity
 - d. partner abuse

Working with Homeless Youth: What it Looks Like

- I. Story from Outreach to illustrate the above points
- II. Do’s and Don’ts to Working with Homeless Youth
- III. Q & A
- IV. Set up a time and place for overflow Q & A time.
 - a. Be sure to have a time and place set up beforehand
 - b. Collect emails to contact before that meeting and for sending info after the conference