



Contact: tmanning@CovenantHouse.org
Direct: 212-727-4920

Covenant House: Homeless Youth Statistics

Stats about the youth homeless population:

- 57% of homeless kids spend at least one day every month without food.
- In the United States, as many as 20,000 kids are forced into prostitution by human trafficking networks every year.
- According to a study of youth in shelters, nearly 50% reported intense conflict or physical harm by a family member as a major contributing factor to their homelessness.
- Over 25% of former foster children become homeless within two to four years of leaving the system.
- 50% of adolescents aging out of foster care and juvenile justice systems will be homeless within six months because they are unprepared to live independently, have limited education and no social support.
- Almost 40% of the homeless in the United States are under 18.

Stats about Covenant House's population:

- 41% of Covenant House kids witnessed acts of violence in their homes.
- 36% of Covenant House kids indicated that someone in their family used drugs regularly.
- 19% of Covenant House kids reported being beaten with an object.
- 19% of Covenant House kids reported that they have endured sexual abuse.
- 15% of Covenant House kids reported someone close to them had been murdered.



Contact: tmanning@CovenantHouse.org
Direct: 212-727-4920

Covenant House: Quick Fact Sheet

Covenant House is the largest privately-funded agency in the Americas providing food, shelter, immediate crisis care, and services to homeless, throwaway, and runaway kids.

Covenant House serves youth aged 16-24

First center created in 1972 on the lower east side of New York City by Franciscan priest Father Bruce Ritter

Since its founding, Covenant House has served over 1 million youth

Operates 21 shelters in the United States, Canada and Central America

51,000+ at-risk and homeless kids helped in 2009

1,800 youth sheltered at Covenant Houses every night in 2009

Over 50,000 calls at two crisis hotlines every year

Covenant House President Kevin Ryan is the former Child Advocate of New Jersey

Covenant House has an open intake policy, accepting every young person that comes to the shelter, 24/7.

Covenant House operates a research institute to gather data on the youth homeless population and partner with universities and other organizations to measure outcomes for Covenant House programs and homeless youth in general.

Shelters are located in Anchorage, Atlanta, Atlantic City, Detroit, Fort Lauderdale, Houston, Los Angeles, Managua, Mexico City, Milpas Altas, Newark, New Orleans, New York, Oakland, Orlando, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Tegucigalpa, Toronto, Vancouver, and Washington, D.C.

Among the services Covenant House provides are:

- Street outreach
- Health/Medical care
- GED High school diploma
- Job readiness and vocational training
- Drug abuse treatment and prevention
- Legal aid
- Mother/child services
- Transitional housing/Life-skills training
- Mental Health Services



Contact: tmanning@CovenantHouse.org
Direct: 212-727-4920

Covenant House: History

In the late 1960's, the Reverend Bruce Ritter, a Franciscan priest, stepped down from his post as a tenured professor at Manhattan College to begin a new ministry serving the city's poor. Joined by colleague Father James Fitzgibbon, he moved into a dilapidated tenement building in New York City's East Village, and along with a handful of friends, former students, and neighbors began an effort to help homeless and runaway youth.

By 1970, Father Fitzgibbon had moved on to devote more time to drug counseling and other community ministries, but Father Ritter remained. Adrian Gately, Patricia Kennedy, and Paul Frazier joined him to create the Covenant Community. Two years later in 1972, Covenant House was officially incorporated with its first intake center established at 504 LaGuardia Place in New York City.

Now an established non-profit, Covenant House began to fundraise, using the monies to shelter homeless kids in lower Manhattan and on Staten Island. In 1976, Father Ritter announced plans to create a multi-service center near the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Covenant House then acquired a group of buildings on West 44th Street and moved its administrative offices to the new location.

Throughout the late 1970's, Covenant House continued to expand its social service programs in New York City and in 1980 began to branch out to other cities. For the next two decades, Covenant House grew under the leadership of Sister Mary Rose (1990-2003) and Sister Tricia Cruise (2003-2008), opening crisis centers in 21 more cities in the United States, Central America, and Canada.



Contact: tmanning@CovenantHouse.org
Direct: 212-727-4920

Covenant House: Programs

Crisis Care

Covenant House has an open intake policy, accepting every young person that comes to the shelter, 24/7. Youth enter and stay at Covenant House voluntarily. They are required to follow rules including respecting the staff and other clients, and to seek employment or continue their educations while housed at Covenant House. Kids coming into Crisis Care are first offered food, sleep, showers and laundry, and then continue to an intake process where they receive health, mental health, educational, job readiness and legal assessments, and are assigned to a case worker. Youth who do not wish to enter the program may still access Covenant House's services via the organization's "drop-in" centers.

Rights of Passage

Created in 1986, Rights of Passage (ROP) is a transitional living program that addresses the long-term needs of homeless kids. Once accepted into the program, residents live in apartments at Covenant House for up to 18 months. Residents do their own shopping, cooking, cleaning, and manage their finances. Residents pay rent to Covenant House weekly, with all of their rent returned to them when they graduate from the program. While learning life-skills, ROP residents are also required to complete their education and hold down a job.

Mother/Child

Covenant House's Mother/Child program was created to help homeless mothers and pregnant teenagers work toward achieving independence and developing healthy parenting skills. In addition to job training and help with securing long-term housing, Covenant House offers workshops in parenting skills, child-bearing, single parenthood, etc... and provides mothers with free on-site daycare to enable them to continue their educations and maintain employment.

Street and Van Outreach

Covenant House outreach vans canvas streets in 19 cities in search for homeless kids in need of help. They provide immediate care and offer options for finding help. Outreach officers distribute food, blankets and often hygiene supplies.

Healthcare

Covenant House sites offer free full-service healthcare, including general medical care, mental health services and addiction counseling.

Educational Services

Covenant House offers GED preparation courses on-site, and sometimes offers scholarships to kids who are accepted to college and are interested in further education. Getting a high school

diploma is made a high priority for residents of Covenant House, as it is unlikely that a youth without this level of education will be able to find employment that pays well enough to maintain stable housing.

Job Preparedness

Teens at the Crisis Center are schooled in resume writing, interviewing and job search skills, and coached on how to behave appropriately in the workplace. They are also provided with a work-appropriate wardrobe. Ongoing mentoring, and counseling in dealing with workplace issues or problems are available.

Pastoral Ministry

Each Covenant House shelter offers non-denominational prayer services. Getting back in touch with their religious community often helps young people reintegrate into society. Covenant House's pastoral ministers work with all religions to help kids connect to their faith.



Contact: tmanning@CovenantHouse.org
Direct: 212-727-4920

Covenant House: Biography of President Kevin Ryan

Kevin Ryan is one of the nation's most passionate child advocates, having dedicated his life to helping homeless, abused and trafficked kids. He serves as the President and CEO of Covenant House International, traveling across the Americas to serve the suffering children of the streets.

"We are called to be icons of God's love in the world," is his perpetual refrain, urging political, religious and business leaders to help us open doors for the lonely young. Since his graduation from Georgetown Law Center in 1992, Kevin has been serving and protecting homeless kids on the frontlines in some of the poorest cities in the United States.

As the first person ever appointed by a New Jersey governor to serve as State Child Advocate, he exposed the illegal detention of hundreds of kids in overcrowded centers and the abuse of children in a state psychiatric hospital.

He went on to lead a sustained reform of the child welfare system in New Jersey and was appointed by UN Envoy Raymond G. Chambers to coordinate the launch of the United Nations' first office dedicated to eradicating children's deaths due to malaria.

His groundbreaking work has made him a beacon of hope for homeless and abused kids the world over, leading to front page stories in The New York Times, Star Ledger and Philadelphia Inquirer, and guest appearances on 60 Minutes, The Today Show, Good Morning America, CNN, Fox and MSNBC.

As our international leader, Kevin is charged with overseeing all Covenant House locations and the many vital programs we offer in the United States, Latin America, and Canada.

Looking toward the future, his ultimate hope is that the work we do at Covenant House will one day not be necessary. But for now, Kevin makes sure that Covenant House continues to play a key role in solving the problem of youth homelessness – by looking at where our kids need us, and responding to them with open arms, minds, and hearts.

The Vatican Mission to the United Nations presented him with its 2010 Path to Peace Award, recognizing his efforts to save thousands of desperate and abandoned kids from the streets. He has received numerous national and international awards, and honorary degrees, including one from Georgian Court University, where he delivered the commencement address in May 2010, 86 years after his paternal grandmother graduated valedictorian in the school's first campus ceremony.

Kevin is a graduate of The Catholic University of America (B.A.); Georgetown Law Center (J.D.) and New York University Law School (LL.M.). He and his wife Clare have 6 children, three sons - Dan, Liam and John; and three daughters - Nora, Maggie and Maeve.



Contact: tmanning@CovenantHouse.org
Direct: 212-727-4920

Covenant House: Logos & Graphics





Covenant House

Opening Doors for Homeless Youth



Covenant House

Opening Doors for Homeless Youth

Covenant House Blue:

Pantone 3005C
C100 M28 Y0 K0
R0 G122 B201
Hexadecimal: 007AC9

Covenant House Gold:

Pantone 130C
C0 M40 Y100 K0
R240 G171 B0
Hexadecimal: F0AB00