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## **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.