



10 Years
On the Streets.
*A Decade of Making
A Difference.*



STANDUP
FOR KIDS

Off the Street: Former Street Kids in Their Own Words*

"I know how it is out there on the streets. I know how alone you can feel. I know how bad it can be. That experience helped me learn that no one's going to make me happy. Not my mom. Not my dad. Not my boyfriend. Not my friends. Just me. I have to make happiness for myself."

-Cindy

"Thank you oh-so-very much for the help you offer me and my family. It is very much appreciated and needed because it is very difficult at times to have the money for the most necessary things, such as diapers and clothes. I am very grateful. Keep up the love and care. A lot of moms, such as myself, need the extra help badly."

-Terri

"I'm a free and sober man writing this letter! But I'm still trying to get used to society...I've made some real important and drastic changes in my life in such a short time. But I'm moving on into the future (finally). Last week I moved home to take care of my sick father, who is doesn't have much time left because of cancer."

-Rodney

"If it wasn't for STANDUP FOR KIDS, I don't know where I'd be -- probably dead."

-Andrew

"You teach people to get their act together by example, not by lecture. It wasn't, 'You should get off drugs.' It was, 'How do you feel?'"

-John

**Names have been changed to protect identities.*

Mission Statement

TO EMPOWER HOMELESS AND AT-RISK YOUTH TOWARD LIFE-LONG PERSONAL GROWTH THROUGH A NATIONAL ON-THE-STREETS OUTREACH PROGRAM. TO CREATE IN THESE YOUTH A SINCERE CARING AND BELIEF IN THEMSELVES THROUGH OPEN, STRAIGHTFORWARD COUNSELING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, THEREBY HELPING THEM ACQUIRE THE LIFE SKILLS NECESSARY TO BECOME EFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMUNITY.



so they never have to be alone...



www.standupforkids.org



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A MESSAGE FROM RICK KOCA
“Standing Up”

Our kids can't get off the streets unless we stand up to help them.

Most of today's nearly two million street kids come from abusive parents, who usually do not report their children's absences. Once on the street, their need for shelter, food, clothing and protection becomes a matter of survival.

Since 1990, STANDUP FOR KIDS, through its national network of volunteers, has been walking the streets to rescue, educate and involve homeless and at-risk youth. We have seen kids begging for money. We have seen them selling drugs, their bodies, and stolen goods. We have discovered them sleeping in abandoned buildings, alleyways, garbage dumpsters, and cardboard boxes.

By letting the kids know they have a friend who'll listen, someone who'll show them how to meet their immediate physical, emotional and financial needs, STANDUP FOR KIDS helps provide them with the tools they need to get off the streets.

As a not-for-profit organization, we need your support to achieve our goals. We have many volunteers whose compassion, warmth and persistence bring smiles where there are tears and hope where there is despair. Still, we need you to be a part of our team.

By supporting STANDUP FOR KIDS, I'm convinced you will make a difference in your life. I know you will make a difference in the lives of homeless and street kids.

Richard L. Koca, Sr.
 Founder & National Executive Director



What is STANDUP FOR KIDS?

STANDUP FOR KIDS is a national, not-for-profit organization founded in 1990 to help rescue homeless and at-risk youth living on the street. With national headquarters in Denver, Colorado, STANDUP FOR KIDS has established ten outreach programs in five states.

What is the purpose of STANDUP FOR KIDS?

Simply put, the purpose of STANDUP FOR KIDS is to empower homeless and at-risk youth toward life-long personal growth through a national on-the-streets outreach program, and to create in these youth a sincere caring and belief in themselves through open, straightforward counseling and educational programs, thereby helping them acquire the life skills necessary to become effective members of their community.

What is the target population for STANDUP FOR KIDS?

We target homeless and at-risk youths age 21 and younger.

Does STANDUP FOR KIDS have a religious or political affiliation?

No, STANDUP FOR KIDS is an independent, not-for-profit organization that has no religious or political affiliation. STANDUP FOR KIDS actively seeks to help kids without regard to race, religion, sexual orientation, nationalities, cultures, and backgrounds.

How does STANDUP FOR KIDS operate?

STANDUP FOR KIDS is an all-volunteer operation. We have no paid staff members. Typically, volunteers are professionals who dedicate evening and weekend hours to walking the streets. Volunteers fill a variety of positions -- such as executive director, public relations manager, community resource director, outreach and apartment support directors, and kid and adult training directors. Since 1990, STANDUP FOR KIDS volunteers have performed more than 300,000 hours of service and conducted more than 25,000 counseling sessions.

The Statistics*

In the United States today there are approximately two million homeless and street kids. More than half of the street kids are under the age of 15.

**According to the National Youth Runaway Network and other sources.*

- 36% have been on the street for more than three years
- 42% become involved in prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home
- 16% never knew their fathers
- 25% have been in mental hospitals
- 62% have attempted suicide at least once.

What You Can Do

Stand Up, Reach Out and Help Keep Our Children From Dying on the Streets of America

Five Easy Ways to Help

1. *Volunteer to be an outreach or apartment support counselor in your community.*
2. *Lend us your expertise.* Be it legal, financial, management, operations or otherwise, we can always use your experience to improve our program's effectiveness in your community.
3. *Make a cash contribution.* This is the simplest and most popular type of charitable gift. Because STANDUP FOR KIDS is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, your gifts are tax deductible.
4. *Donate basic necessities.* The kids we help need basics such as food, clothing and furniture for their apartments once they get off the streets.
5. *Call a friend and get them involved.* Community service is doubly rewarding when shared with a friend or family member.

Why You Should Care

*Because the kids need you.
 Because your community needs you.
 Because it's the right thing to do.*

It is not about choosing to help or not to help. Rather, when confronted with the growing number of U.S. street children, the choice becomes how best to help -- whether to donate some of our precious free time toward helping identify and rescue youth at risk or whether to donate a portion of our financial resources toward helping defray the costs of operating outreach programs such as STANDUP FOR KIDS .

Discover more today about STANDUP FOR KIDS

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