



# EDDY HOÛSE

Michele Gehr, MSSW

Executive Director

423 East 6<sup>th</sup>

Reno NV

(between Valley and Record)



# Eddy House

- Serves primarily non-system youth
- Eddy House saw 769 individual youth 2017
- We have had over 9,000 youth interactions/visits in 2017.
  
- We strive to not duplicate youth services offered in the community.
  
- 93% have lost a parent, family member or close friend
- 39% have previously been in Foster Care (system youth)
- 83% moved more than 5 times as a child

# Central Intake and Assessment Drop-in Resource for Homeless Youth

- Under 24
- 12% of Eddy House visitors are under the age of 18 and were referred to WCDSS.
- 71% are from Washoe County; 8% are from rural Nevada.
- Basic Needs: safe place, showers, clothing, food,
- Resources: Essential documents, medical, dental, education
- Psycho-social education: job skills, life skills, social and emotional skills and goal setting
- Mental health: addiction counseling, healthy relationships, anger management, music and art therapy, grief and loss therapy

# Eddy House population

- 100% trauma affected
- **59% have received treatment for mental health**
- **60% have no education**
  - 70% had an IEP or 504 plan when in school
- 89% have been arrested at least once
- 92% live on the streets; in motels; couch surf
- 71% report that they are safer on the streets than they were at home
- 58% of homeless youth in Reno have exchanged sex or labor for food and shelter

Eddy House Client Intake Forms as of April 1, 2017

# Nevada Stats

- Nevada now has the fastest growing homeless youth population in the country.
- Youth represent 25% of total homeless population in Nevada.
- For every 100k people we have 256 homeless people.

USICH.gov

# Cost to Community

- US Interagency Council on Homelessness estimates that the annual cost to a city for 1 homeless person to be between \$30,000-\$50,000.
  - If  $\frac{1}{2}$  of our youth are arrested, use the shelter, or the ER it will cost the City of Reno \$12 million dollars per year.
- Increased blight and crime downtown
- Higher rate of human trafficking

# Homeless youth are homeless for different reasons than adults

- Homeless youth do not identify as being homeless.
- 75% of homeless youth will realize their mental illness by 25.
- A homeless youth is 5X more likely than an adult to sleep in a place not meant for human habitation.
- Less than 8% of our homeless youth use the VOA shelter.



# Why Don't Homeless Youth Use Adult Shelters?

- No Pets Allowed
- Denied Entry Due to Mental Illness
- **Discrimination Against LGBTQ People**
- **Fear of Contracting Parasites like Lice, Scabies, Pubic Lice, or Bedbugs**
- Hours of Operation Incompatible with Work Hours
- **Danger of Rape or Assault**
- Fear of Contracting Disease
- An Invasive and Disrespectful Check-In Process
- Lack of Handicapped Accommodations
- Drug Addictions
- Separation of Family Members
- Some Service Dogs are Barred from Entry
- Staff Assumptions about Drug Use and Criminality
- **Danger of Theft**
- Religious Differences
- Lack of Privacy and Fear of Crowds
- Lack of Control
- Rules That Unfairly Endanger Disabled Individuals
- Lack of Available Beds

*Nevada Youth Empowerment Project 2017*

Young people see themselves being homeless for different reasons than adults.  
They really do see themselves in a temporary or transitional state.

# Eddy House, Today

- All resources at a single cramped location
- Physically and psychologically safe
- Relationship-based programming
- Social and Emotional Learning Components
- Behavior contracts enforced
- Over 200 youth have become employed as a result of Eddy House's Job Skills groups.
  
- Plans for a 24-hour drop-in center downtown
- Planning Committees: Homeless Youth Continuum, Homeless Youth Point in Time Count

# Eddy House, 2018

- Strengthen current process, programming and funding streams
- Increase hours within the drop-in program
- Expand partnerships with agencies working on a full continuum of care
  
- Expand Eddy House to include a 24 hour drop-in center
- At least 3 staff on-site at all times

# How can you help?

- Make introductions to significant funding or commercial real estate.
- Offer insight to the problem and offer realistic solutions.
- Provide social media support.
- Take a tour.

# Questions?

Michele Gehr, Executive Director

[director@eddyhouse.org](mailto:director@eddyhouse.org)

775-384-1129

Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[www.eddyhouse.org](http://www.eddyhouse.org)