

StandUp For Kids-Ft Lauderdale

Special points of interest:

- > AMERICAS BACKYARD EVENT – 9/11/09
- > ORIENTATION SESSION (PART 1) – 9/16/09
- > BASIC OUTREACH TRAINING (PART 2) – 9/26/09
- > WISH LIST



Just a few hours of your time can help a homeless kid. These kids are often invisible to society. You can be their voice! StandUp For Homeless Kids today. They need YOU!

Volume 1, Issue 1

JOIN US AT AMERICA’S BACKYARD FOR SOME MUCH NEEDED FUN!

StandUp For Kids—Ft. Lauderdale Chapter welcomes you to join us on *September 11, 2009* from 6pm—9pm at America’s Backyard for StandUp For Kid’s “Hot Summer Bash”! A \$10 donation includes VIP admission, a free cocktail of your choice, full summer picnic buffet until 8pm, two for one cocktails until 9pm, awesome raffle prizes, live music & DJ entertainment! We guarantee tons of fun and a night to remember!

We will be collecting cash donations, gift cards, used cell phones and electronic devices, travel size non-perishable food and hygiene products, bottled water, back packs, ponchos, bus passes, school supplies, adult size clothing and undergarments all to support our homeless youth!

Come on out and meet the volunteers of the Ft. Lauderdale Chapter and learn more about StandUp For Kids and how you can help the Homeless Youth in Broward County!

Invite your family, friends & co-workers to join in on the fun!

Seating is limited so please RSVP to Ftlauderdale@standupforkids.org. For directions, parking & dress code information please visit www.MyAmericasBackyard.com.

UPCOMING ORIENTATION & TRAINING SESSIONS

STANDUP FOR KIDS would like to invite you to join our program!! We are looking for volunteers in a diverse range of positions depending on your desired level of involvement, commitment and previous experience. If you think this could be of interest to you, we welcome you to join us at our next orientation session, followed by our basic training & outreach session.

Orientation: 9/16/09 - 7:00p-8:30p

The orientation session will provide information about SU4K and the Ft. Lauderdale program to all prospective volunteers who are interested in knowing more about the organization. For those who are interested in volunteering, this session will inform you of the various ways to get involved such as outreach, prevention, mentoring, advocacy, fundraising, behind-the-scenes support, and leadership roles.

Basic Training /Outreach Training: 9/26/09 - 11am-3pm

Basic & Outreach Training is available for those who have attended an orientation session and desire to become active volunteers in the local chapter. This training provides participants with in-depth knowledge about the status of homeless and street youth, as well as the methods StandUp For Kids uses to reach them. You will learn what it takes to become an outreach counselor. You must attend an orientation session to attend basic training.

Please RSVP to ftlauderdale@standupforkids.org.

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Who is StandUp For Kids?

StandUp For Kids is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded in 1990 to help rescue homeless and at-risk youth. The mission of StandUp For Kids is to help homeless and street kids. This mission is carried out by a national volunteer force whose on-the-streets outreach efforts will find, stabilize and assist homeless and street kids in their efforts to improve their lives. The organization’s mission shall also be furthered through deterrence and resource pro-

grams provided in schools and via the Internet. All facets of this mission shall be guided by the mandate that our volunteers shall tell kids they care about them and then, at every turn, prove it.

StandUp For Kids is an independent, non-profit organization that has no religious or political affiliation. StandUp For Kids helps kids without regard to race, religion, sexual orientation, nationalities, cultures and backgrounds.

StandUp For Kids has programs in over 24 states, and 43 cities.

StandUp For Kids targets homeless and at-risk youths age 21 and younger. Based on current estimates, there are more than one and a half million children, teenagers and young adults trying to survive on the U.S. streets today. If all of the homeless youth were in one city, it would be the 7th largest city in the U.S.!



We tell homeless kids that we care, and at every point, prove it.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

-Elizabeth Andrew

About Homeless Kids

If you don’t know someone living on the streets, its easy to pretend that youth homelessness isn’t a problem. However, it is a **big** problem that is affecting over 1.5 million kids a year. It’s time we start paying attention to the problem, and doing something to fix it.

What are some of the causes of youth homelessness? Fam-

ily breakdown, which results from dysfunctional or a troubled situation in some form of abuse. Another reason is systems failure. Mainstream programs like child welfare, juvenile correction facilities, foster care fail, and leave kids helpless and lost. A lot of these kids find it safer to live on the streets than face the abuse they endure at home or in

these systems that are supposedly there to protect them.

There are four basic types of homeless youth.

Fleeing/Runaway—20% of runaways have attempted suicide. They are typically 12 to 17 years old, and are mostly males & are still in school. 40% have parents with alcoholic issues.

About Homeless Kids continued ...

Episodic (couch surfers) -

Most couch surfers are from low-income communities. Couch surfers are typically age 15-20, and represent LGBTQ youth and youth of color. 40%-60% have a history of physical abuse or severe family conflict. Most attend school.

Street-Dependent (travelers/Squatters) -

75% of squatters attend main-

stream schools. 20% have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. They are more likely to have parental alcohol abuse or addiction or medical problems. They are typically age 18-24, more likely to be male, and more likely to be LGBTQ youth in urban areas. They have been homeless longer, and have learned to live on the streets.

Unaccompanied (shelter hoppers) -

Most shelter hoppers are female and are between the ages of 15-24. 57% have experienced neglect, 40% have been physically abused, more than 30% of females have been sexually abused, and more than 30% have attempted suicide.

Horrible, right? This is why we need your support!

13 KIDS DIE ON THE STREETS... EACH DAY!





If StandUp For Kids could do one thing for you today, what would it be?

The Value of being a Volunteer

Why volunteer? People volunteer for numerous reasons, such as the desire to help others, to feel needed, to share a skill, to get to know the community, to keep busy or whatever the reason may be. The important thing to remember is that volunteering is an 'exchange' between you and the recipient which can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life.

Yes, volunteering takes up our time, energy and sometimes our money. It can most definitely be

hard work, and can have us doing and seeing new things, which can be challenging and sometimes a bit scary.

But here's the thing, volunteering is good for others. If people only cared about themselves, and never stopped to help one another, the world just becomes a careless place. When we step up to the plate and give some of ourselves and our time to help a person in need, that 'exchange' I mentioned earlier occurs, and we help make our world a more

caring, happier place.

Not only that but volunteering is good for YOU. Not only are you making new friends, getting active and healthier, relieving stress, feeling like you are a part of the community, but you will lead a richer, happier and more satisfying life than those who don't volunteer their time to make a difference.

So, StandUp & let's help homeless youth together!

Street Outreach

Street outreach is just that, we walk the streets week after week in search of homeless youth that need our help. The single greatest need, for homeless and street kids is our continuous caring and support. We must convince them that we care, we want them back, and we want to help them get off the streets.

When we find them, we offer immediate necessities such as food, clothing, hygiene products

an open ear and a friendly smile. In addition, we offer a wide array of services such as educational assistance, health services, assistance in finding shelters or housing to name a few.

It's unfortunate that homeless people are treated like social outcasts in our society. True homelessness is about the experience of being an 'outsider', of being lonely and having no one in your life. We want to

break down the social barriers and offer an experience of being welcomed, cared about, accepted and believed in.

What will **you** do?

You can volunteer and join us for an orientation session, donate, or forward this message of hope to your friends and family.

We hope you will make the choice to make a difference in the life of a homeless youth.

Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody...I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat. We must find each other.
-Unknown

It's about giving kids better options



Other Ways to Help

We realize street outreach isn't for everyone and that's fine. We want our volunteers to enjoy what they do.

There are a variety of ways to help depending on your desired commitment and experience level. You do not have to dedicate a large amount of hours to make a difference. Every bit helps!

Volunteer roles range from fundraising, corporate sponsorships, event planning, grant writing, program support, providing "Don't Run Away" presentations in schools, behind-the-scenes support, among other roles.

If you have a passion to help homeless youth, we can surely find a good fit for you!

If you can't commit to spending time, but want to donate some items we are always in need of

clothing, shoes, back packs, used cell phones, food packs, hygiene products, gift cards, school supplies, bus passes.

Please view our 'Wish List' on page four for a list of our most needed items

Thank you

StandUp For Kids-Ft Lauderdale

PO BOX 2084
 Ft Lauderdale, FL 33303
 954-336-7380



STANDUP FOR KIDS – FT. LAUDERDALE WISH LIST

StandUp For Kids is a nationally recognized and acclaimed all volunteer nonprofit organization committed to the rescue of homeless and street kids. Everyone can make a difference! One of the ways that you can help is by providing any of the items below. We are grateful for all gifts and will provide you with a receipt of donation.

General Items

- * Gift Certificates to fast food restaurants
- * Gift Cards to Old Navy, Wal-Mart, Target, etc
- * Metrorail and bus tokens
- * Printing Services
- * Outreach Van
- * Space for Regular Meetings and Trainings
- * Space for an Outreach Center
- * Projector for Presentations
- * Old Cell Phones and Chargers
- * Phone cards
- * Flashlights and Battery-Powered Lanterns
- * Backpacks
- * Clothing Items

Average male or female teen sizes needed

- * Socks
- * Large or X-Large Hooded Sweatshirts
- * Shirts, t-shirts, tank tops
- * Jeans
- * Towels
- * Underwear and Boxers
- * Blankets
- * Sleeping Bags
- * Jackets
- * Maternity Clothes
- * Sneakers
- * Adult Size Sandals and Flip Flops
- * Rain Ponchos

Single Items or Whole Kits in ZipLock bags:

Outreach Food Packets

These items should be in small serving sizes

- * 1 Moist Towelette
- * 2 Juices (small carton w/straw)
- * 1 Small (pop top) Pudding/Fruit Cup
- * 1 Chocolate Candy Bar
- * 1 Small (pop top) Spaghetti's, etc
- * 1 Napkin & Plastic Ware Packet
- * 1 Granola Bar
- * 1 Small Box of Raisins
- * 1 Package of Gum
- * 1 Package of Chips

Hygiene Kits

These items should be in small travel sizes

- * Deodorant (male and female)
- * Lip Balm
- * Disposable Razor
- * Single Packs of Vitamins (Multi-Vitamins)
- * Comb/Brush
- * Small Shampoo and Conditioner
- * Small Soap
- * Tissues
- * Toothbrush - Toothpaste - Dental Floss
- * Sun Screen
- * Moist towelette
- * Feminine Products
- * Condoms – for pregnancy prevention

First Aid Kits

- * 2 Small Band Aids
- * 2 Alcohol/Benadine Prep Pads
- * 1 Small First Aid Cream
- * 2 Large Band Aids
- * 2 Small Gauze Packets

Sewing Kits

- * 1 Medium Needle
- * 3 Colors of Thread
- * 4 buttons

Contact us for more ways to donate or volunteer:

Ftlauderdale@standupforkids.org
www.standupforkids.org

Community Events

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON IN THE COMMUNITY?

StandUp For Kids—Miami Chapter

Join the Miami chapter for an exciting night of Florida Marlins Baseball. One ticket gets you in to both games of the doubleheader vs. the Philadelphia Phillies on Tues, 9/22 at 4:10pm. A portion of each ticket purchased through this offer will benefit StandUp For Kids Miami.

To order discounted tickets, please visit:

WWW.MARLINS.COM/STANDUP

For more information, contact Eddy at 786-371-1980

Volunteer Broward's Field of Food Event

*Volunteer Broward is hosting a "Night of Laughter" event at the Improv—Hard Rock & Casino in Hollywood. All proceeds will benefit Volunteer Broward's Field of Food event in partnership with The Million Meals Committee.

Date: Thurs, Sept 24 at 8:00pm

Admission: \$20* for two adults (21 and over)

(each person in your party should bring a minimum of 2 cans of food)

Contact: Ambar—954-522-6761 or go to

[https://npo.networkforgood.org/Donate/Donate.aspx?](https://npo.networkforgood.org/Donate/Donate.aspx?npoSubscriptionId=1000203)

[npoSubscriptionId=1000203](https://npo.networkforgood.org/Donate/Donate.aspx?npoSubscriptionId=1000203)

*2 drink minimum required.

Dance Marathon Committee—Help Needed!



StandUp For Kids—Ft. Lauderdale is actively recruiting volunteers who would like to help plan, donate and/or take part in our first "Dance Marathon" which will take place on **November 20th - 21st!!**

November is Homeless Youth Awareness Month - so we really want to make an impression and show everyone what StandUp For Kids is all about!

Teamwork makes the dream work!

Dedicated & passionate volunteers are needed for the following committees:

- Alumni & University Relations
- Corporate Relations
- Dancer Relations
- Finance
- Food
- Merchandise
- Productions
- Promotions
- Public Relations
- Special Events
- Volunteer Coordinator

To register to help, or for more info - please contact Kendra Stephens at kendras@standupforkids.org.

