

# STANDUP

newsletter

## THE JOSEPHSON INSTITUTE OF ETHICS



In a January 4th ceremony, Michael Josephson presents a \$1,000 check to the grateful and surprised Rick Koca, founder and CEO of STANDUP FOR KIDS.

In 2005, the Josephson Institute set up a charitable contribution fund to make an annual donation to a worthy charity on behalf of the Josephson Institute staff. The Institute announced that the staff had unanimously selected STANDUP FOR KIDS as the first recipient of this yearly gift. *The* entire Josephson staff took the time to attend the presentation and hear Rick talk about the volunteers, and their dedication and commitment to homeless and street kids.. Rick told Michael and the Staff that he was honored by their generous gift, and flattered to be the first recipient. Further, he stated that he was looking forward to building a relationship with the Josephson Institute, and that together we will reach out and help more of America's youth.

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

## FROM THE CEO

One Envelope  
One Stamp  
One Check  
One Kid



**Happy New Year.** As we begin our 17<sup>th</sup> year on the streets I look back at all of the wonderful memories, the unbelievable moments that the thousands of homeless and street kids have brought to our lives. At times I've felt tremendous sorrow, but I also felt the incredible joy of saving the life of a street kid! I can't think of a place that I'd rather be than helping America's homeless and street children.

**From** the first program in San Diego in January 1990, to our newest program in Long Beach, California just a few months ago, we've started outreach programs in more than 30 cities in 16 states.

This year will see us open up a minimum of two more outreach centers and start outreach programs in at least *EIGHT* new cities. And, we need your help to do reach our goals. Actually, the KIDS need your help that we might help them reach their goals. We're seeking *monthly and quarterly* donors at \$10, \$20, \$50. Whatever you can help with would be appreciated. We can send you a monthly envelope to help remind you. Yes, before we consider anything else, our children should come first.

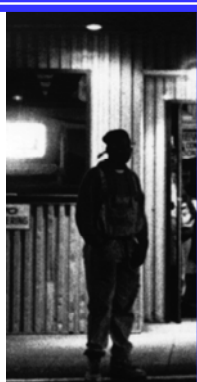
*Thank You, Rick*

[monthly@standupforkids.org](mailto:monthly@standupforkids.org)

**STANDUP FOR KIDS**  
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San Diego, California 92101

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## Leaders of the Year

**Rick** Koca, Founder & CEO of STANDUP FOR KIDS, presents the 2005 National Leader of the Year Award, to Juanita Erickson and Vicki Shepherd. Juanita and Vicki volunteer as the Executive Directors of STANDUP FOR KIDS in Oceanside, California. Vicki and Juanita have been volunteering with STANDUP FOR KIDS for more than four years and have built an unbelievable program!

**Their** leadership led to the Oceanside program services to homeless and street kids, and at-risk youth through an outreach center and an “on the streets” program. The program provided more than 1,800 meals to kids and an additional 1,134 food boxes to kids in 2005.

**The** Oceanside program has become highly respected and honored in the North County area. This is attributable, in large part, to the daily leadership of Juanita and Vicki. STANDUP FOR KIDS is very fortunate to have such dedicated women working on behalf of homeless and street kids.

## CONGRATULATIONS!



**What:** Hook it Up for StandUp! Event  
**When:** Wednesday, Feb 1st..... 4PM to Midnight  
**Where:** Hockeytown on Woodward in Detroit  
**Who:** You and anyone you know who is interested in helping STANDUP FOR KIDS - Detroit  
**Why:** Sprint is having their Sprint Power Vision Hook Up Contest that shows off the latest in their cell phone technologies AND gives the chance to have \$25,000 donated to STANDUP FOR KIDS - Detroit.

### *How it works:*

**Part I:** On Feb 1st at Hockeytown Cafe in Detroit, Sprint will be passing out 150 demo phones to the first 150 people.

**Part II:** These 150 demo phones will then be passed around for anyone to view the demonstration of Sprint's newest technologies.

At the end of the demo, each person enters in their email address.

**Part III:** Sprint will then send an email to that address, with the website where you log in and vote for your favorite Detroit volunteer organization.

STANDUP FOR KIDS - Detroit is one of five Detroit organizations that were selected for this Contest, so we need all of the votes we can get!!

[Detroit@standupforkids.org](mailto:Detroit@standupforkids.org)

[Click to Contribute](#)



## Our Kids

# Squatter

### *Merry Christmas Rick,*

I have been to the website, and I also send a monthly donations through the Combined Federal Campaign. I have not forgotten what you guys did for me. I'm stationed in Germany and will not be back in the US for a couple of years, but when I get there I plan on volunteering with you guys. I'm having a wonderful Christmas, in part, to your organization and you. I wish you and yours all the best in the New Year. I really will never forget what you did for me and I am glad that you continue to spread nationally, I really am. I am also proud of Brian for finally realizing he did have a purpose in life. Happy holidays and a blessed new years... Remember to tell all the squatters there is hope beyond the streets. Although, I thought there never was. But, now I live a different life because there was always at least one person that cared in my life and it was you and your organization..

*SPC Karl W. Stock, USA  
1st squadron 1st US CAV REGT  
a.k.a. Furby*

*The mission of STANDUP FOR KIDS is to help homeless and street kids. This mission shall be 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 programs 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.*

### *Help us Tell Children Not to Run Away (From the Don't Run Away Manual )*

**"The** street is deserted and a cold breeze sweeps across it, sending shivers through his body. Walking away from Brandon's house, he thinks of the nights that he had walked these roads. He had been out this late many times, but it felt different now that he had nowhere to go. For the first time since he ran away, Squatter felt homeless!

**Squatter** decides to try and sleep in the park. He walks past a man out walking his dog and says "hello". He feels very lonely and thinks how it was weird that the man had no idea that he was a homeless kid. He wishes he had brought a jacket because the cold air makes his body shake. Squatter stands and stares at the park for long time. "Where can I sleep?" he wonders. Finally, he decides to lie under a picnic table. The cement is cold and hard, and there are spiders and old chewing gum on the bottom of the table. He wishes he had a blanket to cover up with and that he could not smell the rotten food around where he was lying. He wants to cry but tries to be tough and fight back the tears. Then, he realizes that no one is there to hear him anyway. He is completely alone.

**Crying** himself to sleep, he hugs his friend's backpack because it is the only thing he has left of his old life."





You can sell practically anything on eBay and donate a percentage of your net proceeds to the STANDUP FOR KIDS. Clean out garage, closet, attic, or basement and sell the unused items to benefit our program! Now you can sell an item on eBay and donate 10% to 100% of the final sale price to help our volunteers go to the streets and help homeless and street kids and at-risk youth.

#### **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

[MissionFish](#), a nonprofit organization specializing in online charitable auctions, developed “Giving Works for eBay.” Although items will be posted through [MissionFish](#), they will appear with all other listings on eBay. Giving Works items are marked with a charity ribbon icon so buyers know they are supporting a good cause. Buyers tend to trust charity sellers more and these items often sell for more than non-charity listings. In addition, Giving Works items appear in three categories for the price of one: the category you select, the eBay Giving Works category and on the [MissionFish](#) nonprofit homepage.

**Contact Kyle at the national office if you have a question. 1.800.365.4543**



Become a “Fisherman” with STANDUP FOR KIDS. Help us catch the kids that everyone keeps saying are “falling through the safety net!”.

**Get involved!**



It's Time to **TURN PURPLE** with STANDUP FOR KIDS! In April 2006, our nation's first campaign against child abuse and the resulting problem of youth homelessness will mark the beginning of what will now become an annual event. Volunteers all over the nation have already been busy at work for months collecting petition signatures, organizing fundraisers, and helping to raise awareness for this cause. Our local programs nationwide have also been stepping up to the challenge of turning their communities purple.

Thank you to those who have already signed our Million American Petition! If you have yet to sign the petition, please visit us at [www.turnpurple.org](http://www.turnpurple.org) and sign the petition under the get involved page. If you have already signed it, please help us spread the word by passing this link along to everyone you know!

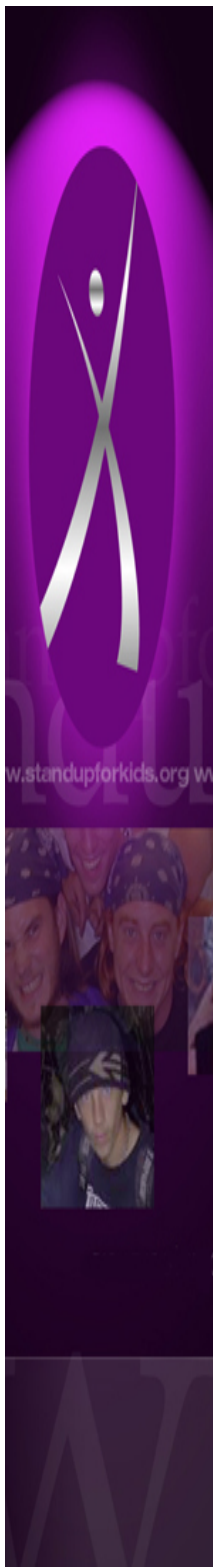
Special thanks to our volunteers, Angie Cottonaro, who has already been successfully collecting donations for this cause and working hard to organize a **TURN PURPLE** Benefit Concert in her city of Milwaukee this April, and Rodrigo Cortez, who has been busy at work collecting hundreds of signatures in his community already and is still continuing in his efforts. Special thanks to our programs in Omaha, NE; Atlanta, GA; Tampa, FL; Orange County, CA; Austin, TX; Houston, TX; Dallas, TX; Detroit, MI; and Washington D.C. for your commitment to **TURN PURPLE**. If you are located in these cities, please contact your local programs to aid in their **TURN PURPLE** efforts.

It's not too late to help us **TURN PURPLE**. In fact, we need your help! Please contact Christine Yoo, National **TURN PURPLE** Campaign Coordinator, at [turnpurple@turnpurple.org](mailto:turnpurple@turnpurple.org) if you would like to get involved.

**Volunteer — Click Here**



# From the Archives



Rick,

Thank you for taking the time to read my e-mail and respond. Just yesterday I saw a kid sitting outside of 7-Eleven with that wide-eyed fear look and a bit shaggy/dirty. I'm sure he was homeless but, like everyone else I just looked the other way and went on my way because I just didn't know how I could help and he looked like he needed to just sit and rest so I didn't want to interfere with no plan and make him flee.

You know I feel helpless with the whole situation of teen run-a-ways. I shared with you before that my background was such. I have two teenage sisters that are now facing the same situation. I have contacted social services for help. I even tried to have one sister live with me who, at a sister level it was great but, at a parental level didn't work - she had been too independent for too long to be told anything - if I didn't have young children in the house to worry about, it would of been fine to work with her at more of a compassionate understanding level to help her make the right choices. But, I didn't have that kind of time frame with my little ones watching her every move so, I 'told her' and she rebelled, I understand.

I read your website about feeding the kids enabling them. You are right on. No kid would leave a home to starve or face the streets if there wasn't a reason. The problem with our family is, parents can 'look good' and make the teens 'look bad' to the social workers who don't really want the teens because no foster parent wants them and to put them in a group home would only teach them how to be bad people because the worse kids are often there (but not always). I'm thankful I sought the church and Christ out for my help. My sisters, they seek authority just as I did, but they seek it in the law, which is only making it worse. My parents are going to counseling. Realizing that out of seven kids six of them so far sought the streets rather than home, perhaps they had something to learn. Hopefully the youngest will benefit from this.

So, thank you again for your hard work. I know first hand how challenging it can be to pass through all the teens testing of both themselves and those who care. I'm forever thankful to those who stuck it out with me, for that matter, so is my husband. He met me after all that. Now I'm ashamed of where I've come from and wish I had a prettier story to tell. Especially since we've been blessed and we live in yuppieville where it seems everyone had a perfect life. It is shameful to admit I'm just now learning some of what they think are the basic rules of etiquette and hosting. God is helping me though and I'm an eager learner at that and parenting, as I don't want to chase my kids off, either emotionally or physically. People who don't know my background think that I was a spoiled rich girl who's Daddy bought everything for me and they also think that I'm an excellent Mom who should have a dozen. I guess that testifies how God is raising me up. 32 years old and still growing up...hope it never ends. Sorry for babbling so much. From your work you do, I knew you'd understand and not judge my past and also I wanted to be open to you so that perhaps you can know me a bit in case we can ever be of help. Although I know it is with fear that I offer, because like I said, my past is shameful and sometimes it is easier to just forget about it and pretend those years never happened. Yet I can't help but wonder if perhaps God brought me up out of it for a reason.

*Thank you and God Bless, T.*



STANDUP FOR KIDS becomes the recipient of the proceeds from the CD **“Returning to Lystra!”** The CD can be heard and purchased at [www.purevolume.com/thefaveur](http://www.purevolume.com/thefaveur) or [www.shop.getfaveur.com](http://www.shop.getfaveur.com).



Please go to one of the web sites, visit the bands, and tell all of them thanks for helping us reach out to America’s homeless and street kids.

STANDUP FOR KIDS: A registered charity with the Combined Federal Campaign.  
**Look for our number: 0670**

### STANDUP

To STANDUP requires strength  
 and strength requires desire,  
 but desire requires motivation.  
 To motivate requires love and  
 love requires action,  
 but action requires inspiration.  
 May we inspire each other  
 To love, so that we can  
 Motivate our desires and  
 Strengthen one another to stand.

StandUp  
 StandUp  
 StandUp

“When we left each other,  
 we make each other stronger.”  
 “To love truly is to live fully.”

*By Danny Shaver*  
 DePauw University  
 Indiana  
 STANDUP FOR KIDS—San Diego  
 January 2006



*Almost twice as many  
 children will die on the  
 streets this year than died  
 on 9/11.....  
 Their terror is real  
 everyday!*



**Please report child abuse**  
**1.800.4ACHILD**  
[www.childhelpusa.org](http://www.childhelpusa.org)