



September 1, 2011

Dr. Lois Lee, Founder and President  
Children of the Night  
14530 Sylvan Street  
Van Nuys, California 91411

Dear Dr. Lee:

Children of the Night With Out Walls is a great new initiative to provide resources to America's teens forced to live on the streets. The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS), whose mission is to keep America's runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets, is happy to join Children of the Night as a partner in this endeavor. NRS is in a unique position to partner with you as we have a database of 13,000 resources, including youth shelters, transitional living programs for older youth and drop in centers, among other services for runaway, homeless and at-risk youth. As part of the collaboration, NRS will share appropriate resources with you.

The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS), established in 1971 as Metro-Help, has served as the federally-designated national communication system for homeless and runaway youth since 1974. Recognized as the oldest hotline of its kind in the world, NRS, with the support of more than 150 volunteers, has handled more than 3 million calls in its 40-year history and handles over 100,000 calls annually. NRS provides crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, and education and prevention services to youth, families and community members throughout the country 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our newest on-line service, live chat--an instant messaging service, provides another opportunity for youth to connect with NRS when they need help.

NRS' services are done with the support of and in collaboration with organizations and programs throughout the nation, including with Children of the Night. We look forward to enhancing our collaboration beyond making and getting referrals, as well as the other ways we've worked together. NRS' materials, such as wallet cards and *Let's Talk, Runaway Prevention Curriculum*, are available at no charge to Children of the Night. We encourage you to include our hotline and website on materials you develop for WOW and to share our materials with other WOW partners.

Children of the Night and NRS are committed to serving high risk youth. We share a cooperative spirit and work in the best interest of struggling youth - among them the runaway and homeless who are often forced to prostitute on the streets for food to eat and a place to stay. Jointly, we are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of children each year. Combining our wide array of services to youth in need will help to ensure WOW is successful in reaching even more youth. Thank you for this opportunity to partner with you.

Sincerely,

Maureen Blaha  
Executive Director