

LGBTQ Homeless Youth and Suicide

I'm gay/lesbian/queer/transgendered/bisexual/questioning . . .

For literally tens of thousands youth between the ages of 12-18, these two simple words can set off a chain of events including rejection from their families leading to homelessness, poverty, drug and/or alcohol abuse, prostitution and even death.

Statistics show that an estimated 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. When one in four gay teens are forced out of their home – regardless of prior abuse or family dynamics – they are often forced into a new reality that is incredibly dangerous and difficult for anyone, let alone an unaccompanied minor, to navigate. Lack of education, job skills or identification can make finding even unskilled labor work difficult and homeless youth will utilize what they see as their only available resource, and that is their body. Approximately 70% of LGBTQ youth have traded their bodies for food, shelter, drugs or cash and 58% have reported sexual abuse while on the streets. Within 48 hours of leaving home, 1 in 3 homeless youth will be recruited by a 'pimp' or sexual trafficker into commercial exploitation.

Multiple studies have shown that LGBTQ youth are 4.5 times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers, and when they are forced into homelessness this number increases by 2.5, making homeless LGBTQ youth 7 times more likely to attempt to take their own life.

Community Crisis Services Inc. is here to help 24/7/365. Our expertly trained counselors offer telephone crisis counseling to help alleviate the fears that many of our LGBTQ youth face daily.

On Thursday, May 17th we will host our P.S. There is Still Hope event at the University Park Church of Christ, 6420 Adelphi Rd, Hyattsville MD 20782 from 8am – 10:30am to show how crisis can be overcome and individuals, including LGBTQ youth can thrive.

CCSI
Community Crisis Services, Inc.

Celebrating Success after Crisis!
Thursday, May 17th
8:00am - 10:30am
University Park Church of Christ
6420 Adelphi Rd, Hyattsville MD 20782
Continental Breakfast Included
\$20.00 per person

Featuring:

Hope after Bullying, Matthew Ratz, *Surviving without Hope*, Liz Kimbel
Hope Prevails, Rene' Michelle, *Finding Hope in Addiction*, Jamieson Brill
Hope after Heartache, Deborah A. Duley, *I'm Still Here*, Mya Williams

Contact Bill Leary for ticketing information
bill@ccsimd.org (301)864-7095 Ext. 432

P.S. There is *still* Hope!

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