

# Covenant House and the Launch of the International Institute

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The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the lower right quadrant, there are several faint, concentric circular patterns that resemble ripples in water, centered around a point. These circles are light blue and fade out towards the bottom right corner.

# About Covenant House

- Largest privately-funded childcare agency in the country.
- Serves at-risk and homeless youth ages 16-24.
- Twenty-one sites in 18 cities across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central America.

# Covenant House New York

- 7,000 youth per year
- Crisis and transitional living services
- Community-based services
- Last year spent \$22 million, which is more than double what the NYS government spends on the same population.

# Covenant House New York

## ➤ Services Provided:

- Residential
- Employment
- Educational
- Legal
- Medical
- Outreach

# COII Management Training Program

- Training opportunity for staff-level employees
- 2 Main Requirements:
  - Rotations
  - Enrollment in Master's Degree Program

# COII Management Training Program

- Graduates of the COII Program go on to become:
  - Directors at Covenant House and outside agencies
  - Executive Directors at Covenant House (Alaska, Georgia)

# The Need for an International Institute

- Need for a unified effort to speak on behalf of the youth.
- Need for coordination of research and leadership development initiatives already going on at individual sites.
- This unified effort could have a great impact on the entire field of social services.

# What is the Institute?

- The Institute is the research and leadership development arm of Covenant House International.
- Purpose: to progressively *advance research and leadership development* in the social service sector working for homeless, runaway and at-risk youth.
- We focus on research through partnerships and non-profit leadership development.

# Initial Goals

- **In the first year of operation the Institute aims to:**
  - Determine target areas for initial research projects.
  - Initiate and facilitate a multi-site research project.
  - Incrementally pilot and implement an agency-wide leadership development program.

# Research Strategy

- Goal 1: To connect local sites with well-established research expertise at universities, hospitals and independent research entities
- Goal 2: To produce reliable, accurate, and up-to-date data that will enhance programming and influence public policy.

# Research Projects

- Columbia University Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies
  - Pilot study of 300 crisis clients
  - Will give overview of population and lay groundwork for future studies

# Research Projects

- Other projects being developed with Covenant House sites in California, Alaska, Georgia, Honduras, Toronto, and other sites.

# Leadership Training

- Invest in high performance and potential by leveraging internal management training models.
- While leadership training programs are common in the corporate arena, they are unusual in the non-profit sector.

# Leadership Training

- 1st Annual Leadership Conference held at St. John's University, New York City.
  - Included managers from all Covenant House sites
  - Agenda included fiscal management, fundraising, program development, research, and international youth issues.
- 4-week training follow-up with senior management starting in January 2009

# Conclusion

## ➤ Future Directions:

- Multi-site collaboration with outside agencies for research and leadership development projects
- Ability to better advocate for youth
- Questions? Comments?