

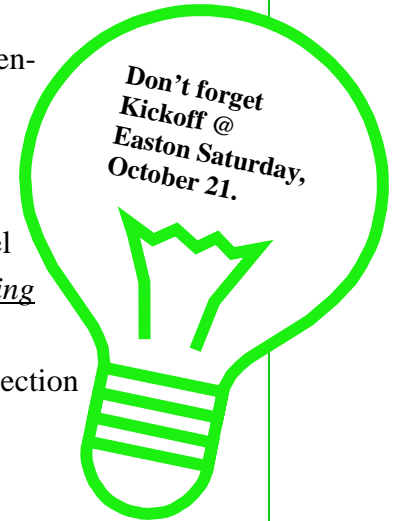
(Green Light Project continued)

For more information on how YOU can help, email Kyra Crockett, Community Education Coordinator at kcrockett@huck-house.org or call 614.298.4104.

Other ways you can find out information about National Runaway Prevention Month are:

- ◆ Check out www.huck-house.org
- ◆ Check out www.1800runaway.org
- ◆ Tune in to the City of Columbus' **Community Tapestry** on Channel 3 on October 10 at 7p.m. (*this will be a live broadcast taking incoming calls to ask the panel questions*)
- ◆ Get information from your local libraries in their community news section

More distribution sites will be announced as November nears.



WARM OUR HOUSE WITH YOUR HEART THIS HOLIDAY

It may be 80 degrees out, but that doesn't mean it's too early to think about your holiday gift giving. There are only about 100 days until the holidays. Of course, a few of you probably had your shopping done months ago. (Not that there's anything wrong with that. . .) But for the rest of us, it is time to consider the right gift for our friends, family and loved ones. Please keep in mind a donation to Huckleberry House.

As you know, the holiday season can be a difficult time for people who are alone, or don't feel that they have anyone or anything. It can be especially hard if you are



a child who doesn't have anyone or anything. Someone on your shopping list would appreciate a gift on their behalf to help the children at Huck House.

We will send a card to your friend, family or loved one acknowledging their gift. You can send the gift or bring it to Huckleberry House Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. You can also call Sherri at 614-298-4103 and arrangements will be made to pick up the gift.

Remember, even a small gift can have a big impact on a child when they know there are people who care.

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____

Gift: _____

Your Friend's Name: _____

Your Friend's Address: _____

From Our House to Yours

Why Kids Run

Teen Brains

One reason teens think and act differently than adults is that the teenager's brain has not stopped growing and changing. The part of the brain that makes decisions, thinks about the future and understands consequences hasn't fully developed yet. That's why teens see only the short-term future. They think their problems will last forever. They do not have many tools to deal with problems, and they have trouble applying what they have been told, or the experiences of their friends, to their own situation. When their tools run out, some teens act impulsively, and that can lead to running.

Teen Emotions

Teens' emotions are intense. In times of crisis, teens can be easily overwhelmed because they have not lived through enough situations to know their feelings will pass.

Some teens also have a hard time separating their feelings from reality. They think, "If I feel it, it must be true" and then act on those emotions.

Teen Lives

Teens face pretty scary situations. Some of these include pressure to have sex, to use alcohol or drugs, and a strong need to meet the expectations of their friends. Every generation has had to deal with some of these things, but today's teens face these problems earlier than their parents did. For some teens, the threats of gangs or crime where they live is very real. Even life at home can be scary. If a teen's home is violent, unpredictable, chaotic or filled with sexual or physical threats, the best choice might seem to be to get out first and think things through later.

WHAT TEENS HAVE TO SAY

We talked with some of the young people staying in the crisis program and asked them why teens run from home. One young man, who is seventeen but looks older, shared some of his story, and what he thinks other teens feel.

"It's too much [being at home], you don't know what you're going to do, you can't trust nobody. You know why you're leaving, but when you get out then you don't know what to do. It feels good at first, you have plans who you're going to stay with, then you get out and it starts to not work out and you end up just...out there."

A thin young woman braided her hair and listened to the conversation. She agreed that running can seem like a good idea at first.

"You finally get to control something in your life," she said.

The young man continued. "When I was downtown, I didn't know where I was and I almost got put in a car." The other youths listened to this but did not react much. The idea of being "put in a car" while on the run did not seem to surprise them.

"Do teens know the downside of running, what can happen to them?" we asked.

"Teens 'get it', the danger, but maybe they don't get the full gist of it from the people they talk to, or they don't think anything bad will happen to them," said the girl. "One girl [I know] lied to her mom [about her plans] and got into an escort service."

Another girl, younger than the others and dressed in pajamas, walked into the living room and joined the discussion. She had recently come into the program after being homeless with her family.

"My mom don't love me, doesn't pay attention to me, doesn't trust me, she goes with her friend to the clubs. I ran to show her how mad I was, but it won't make no difference when I go back."