



## Participant Success Stories

*Runaway Project*

### Program Overview

The Runaway Project provides mediation to resolve conflict and reunite youth with their families as quickly as possible. Staff will respond to requests for assistance by providing counseling services where and when they are needed, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### Who We Serve

The program serves youth of any age throughout Brown County that are thinking of running or have run away from home. Counselors address issues such as family problems, lack of communication, relationship problems, difficulty at school, self-esteem, and alcohol or drug abuse.

**2006: 208 runaways counseled; 1,272 runaway calls answered.**

### A Story of Success

Susie is a 14-year-old girl who voluntarily agreed to Runaway Project services after running away from home three times over a three-month period. She was living with her mother, stepfather, and two siblings. Though her running away was associated with frequent conflicts with her mother, she did not have a close relationship with any of her family members. She admitted that she had a tendency to break rules and often treated her mother disrespectfully. She was also having problems completing her school work which resulted in low grades and only escalated her already strained relationship with her mother.

Through her contact with counselors at the Runaway Project, Susie identified two primary goals - to improve her relationship with her mom and improve her grades at school.

Runaway Project staff met individually with Susie to address anger management issues, following rules, accepting consequences, and steps to improve her grades. Susie was connected with school support services for assistance with completing homework assignments. She and her mother also participated in family sessions with the Runaway Project. They focused on identifying an effective rules/ consequences/ privileges agreement that would work for their family. Counselors also worked with them to address ways Susie's mother could consistently follow through with rules and consequences to keep Susie on track.

During the first several weeks with the program, Susie and her mother contacted Runaway Project staff frequently when immediate conflicts arose. Problem-solving was difficult for them at first and assistance was needed to de-escalate conflicts. As clear expectations were identified and consistently followed, Susie and her mother reported a significant decrease in the level and frequency of conflicts. After three months, they proudly reported vast improvement in their family life and felt that they now had the tools necessary to maintain expectations on their own and keep order and peace in their home.

*Runaway Project offices are located at 300 Crooks Street in downtown Green Bay.*

*The above story is an example of the type of children and families we serve. Names, ages, and other personal information have been changed to protect the client's confidentiality.*

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