

# Why We Do What We Do: Caring For Vulnerable Populations



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*100% FOR CHILDREN*

“J” is a 7 year old girl who has had 3 weeks of ear pain.

She is staying with her family at an overflow shelter and they have been unable to go an urgent care because her parents are trying to keep their jobs.

During her exam we find that she has a dead cockroach in her ear canal.

“K” is a 18 year old female who was recently admitted to a local hospital after she was beaten, raped and injected with numerous drugs by her boyfriend.

She was “detoxed” at a local hospital and released.

She has a medical history of asthma and has been on the streets for 2 year since her family abandoned her.

“L” is an 11 year old girl who is currently at a shelter. L came into our clinic for strep throat. She lives with her mother and 4 siblings. Recently the family found housing with a “roommate”.

While their mother was at work, the children witnessed the suicide of the roommate.

“L” came in to our clinic for strep throat.

“M” is an 18 year old female who presents to the clinic with a recent history of homelessness and the theft of her asthma medications.

Also, she has had frequent vaginal bleeding that began after a miscarriage three months ago.

Her social history is significant for crystal methamphetamine abuse.

“N” is a young woman who states she is 19 but later we find out she doesn’t know exactly how old she is but appears to be late teens/early 20s. She has had 3 weeks of back pain and wants to be tested for STIs.

After several hours with a female staff member we learn she has been the victim of trafficking since she was about 10 years old.

# What Is the Scope of the Problem?

- Total number of homeless individuals varies but one estimate had over 640,000 on any given night. Of that number over 230,00 are families (NATEH)
- 5,000 to 7,000 youth currently live on the streets of Arizona (Children's Action Alliance)
- Parent-child conflict is the most common reason for runaway/homeless youth

# More Facts

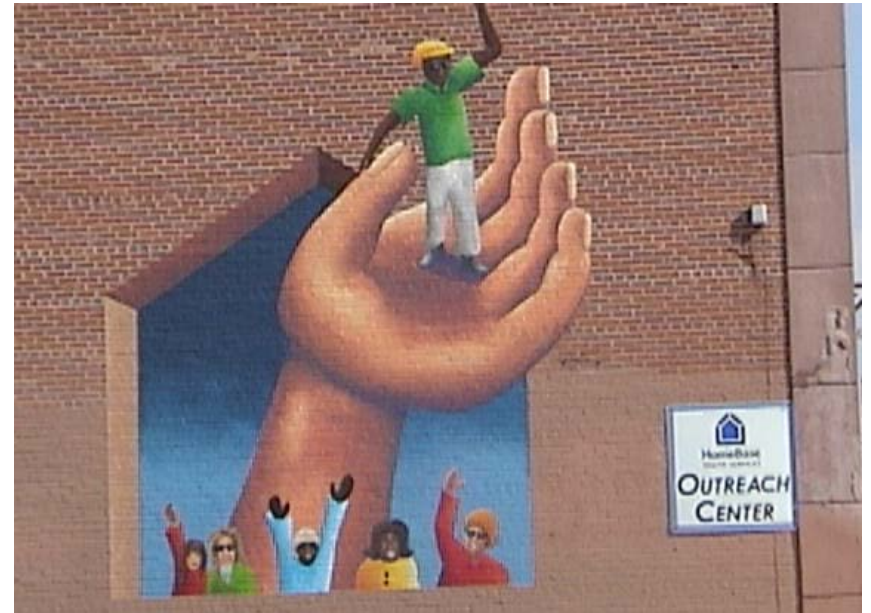
- Homeless children have been physically abused at twice the rate of other children, and three times as likely to be sexually abused.
- Since 1983 the number of homeless females has more than doubled
- Nearly 1/3 of homeless youth (6-17) have at least one major mental disorder
- LGBTQ kids are at special risk for harm compared to their heterosexual counterparts

<http://www.endhomelessness.org>

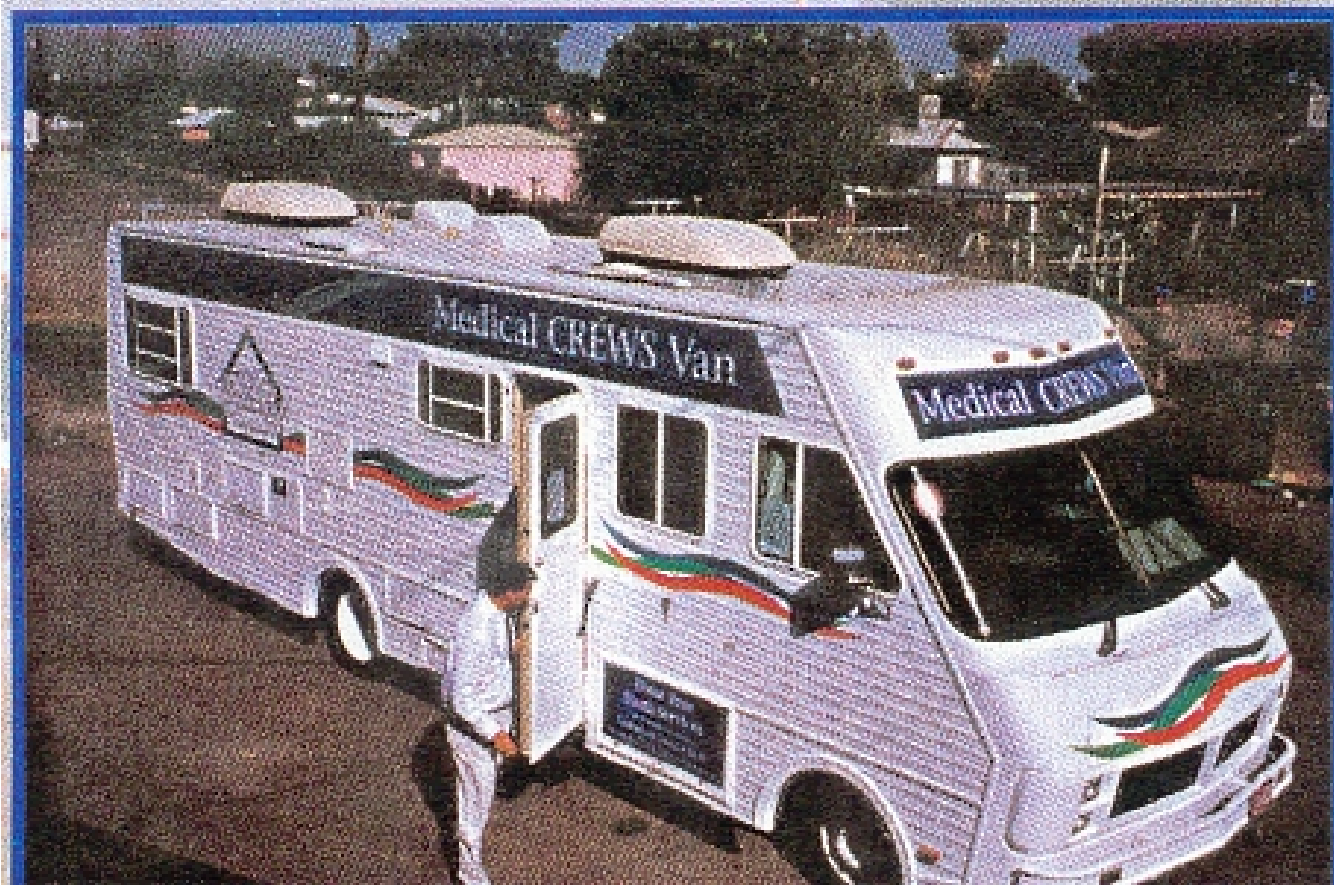
# Trafficking: What You Need to Know

- Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world.
- Revenues are 2<sup>nd</sup> only to drug trade (\$35 B)
- Very young (12-13), homeless, runaways, foster care, juvenile justice, LGBTQ, often poor and minorities.
- Vast majority of sex-trafficked children (in US) are American-Born citizens
- At least 100K minors involved in US and 325K at risk

# Our Story Begins



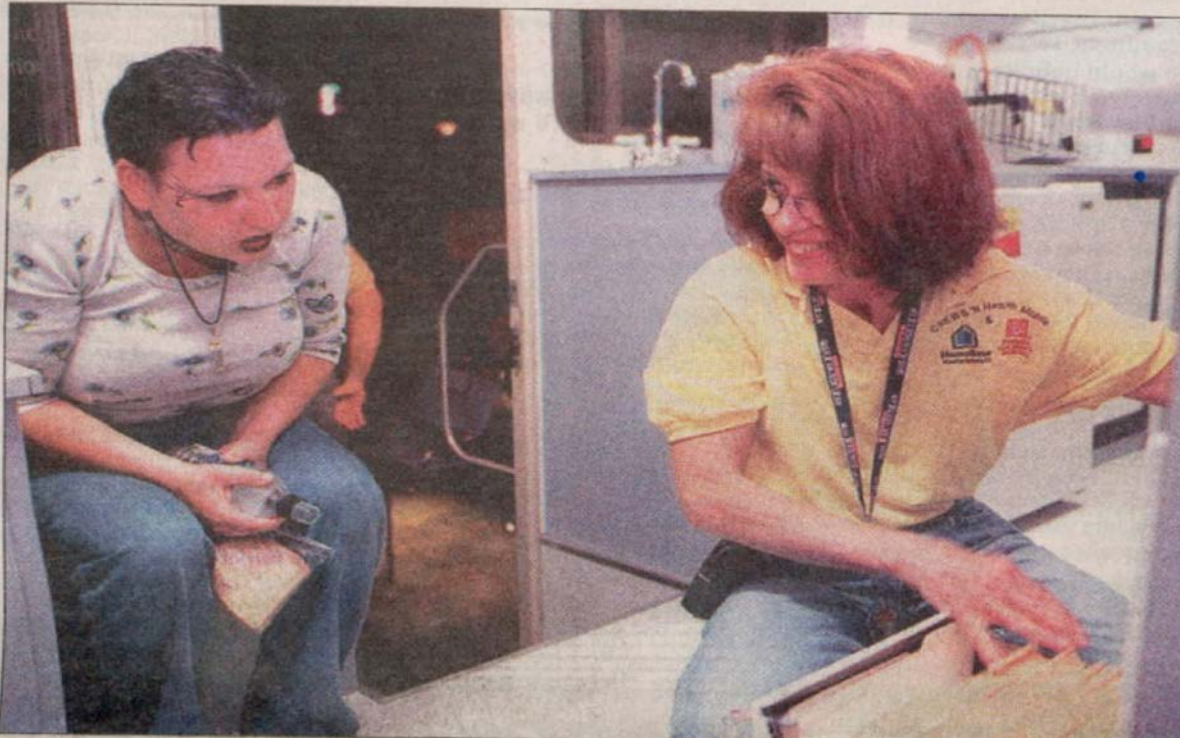
# Humble Beginnings



# On the Streets in 2000



## Help takes to the streets



PHOTOS BY MARTHA STRACHAN/FOR THE TRIBUNE

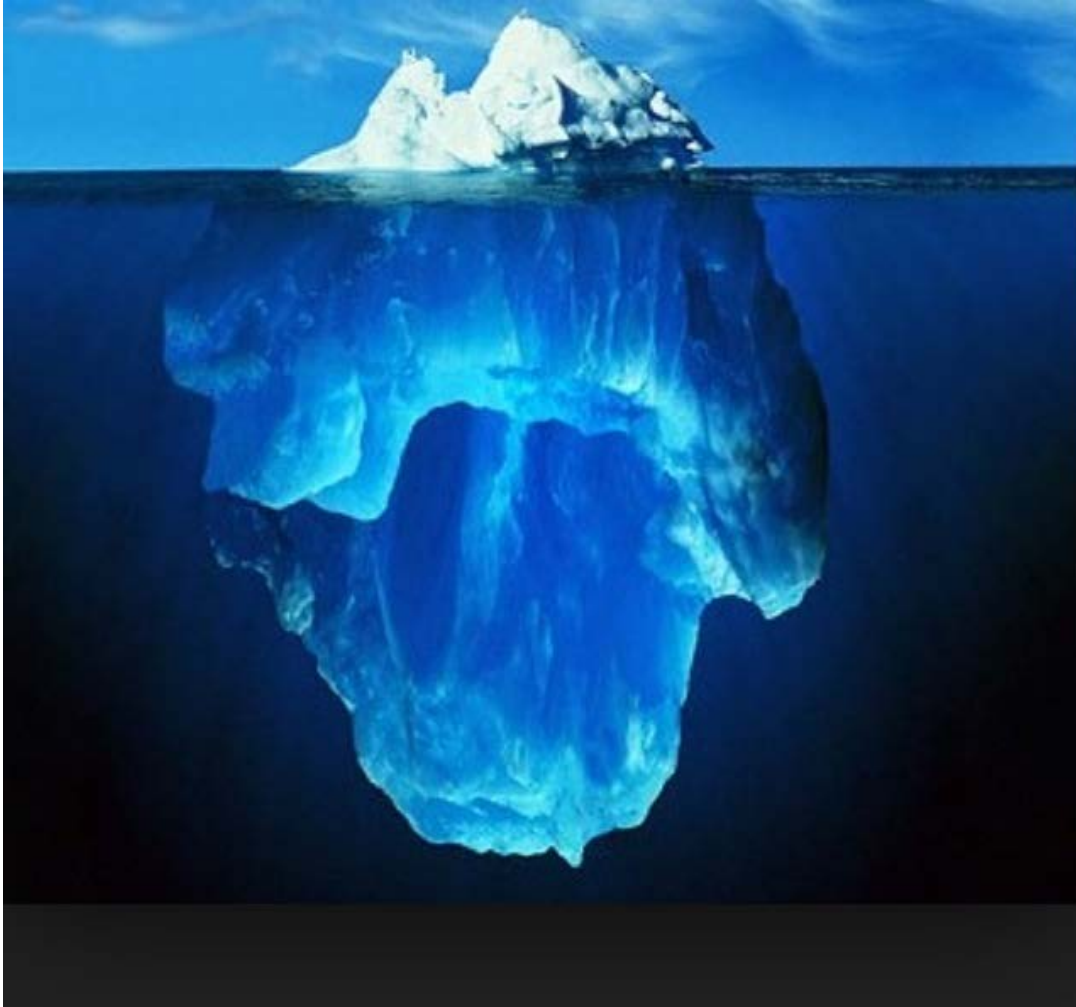
**Chat:** Jan Putnam, right, a nurse practitioner for Phoenix Children's Hospital's Healthmobile, chats March 19 with Rydar, left, who says she lives on Tempe's downtown streets.

# Care for homeless kids

# Services Offered

- Physical Exams/Well Woman Exams/WCC
- Blood and Urine Tests
- DX and RX for Minor Urgent and Long Term Medical Care
- STD/HIV Screening/Testing/Counseling
- Pregnancy Testing/Referral
- Immunizations
- Screening for Insurance Eligibility/AHCCCS Enrollment

# Tip of the Iceberg



Food, Clothing, Shelter,  
Simple Medical Care, Help  
with IDs, Wash Clothes

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Severe Dental Issues

Chronic Medical Conditions

Chronic Foot Problems

Lack of Education

Unemployment

Inadequate Social Skills

Severe Mental Illness

Prostitution

Violence

Rape

# Barriers to Health Care

- Language
- Legal Issues
- Fear/Exploitation
- Transportation
- Education Level/Understanding
- Finances
- Limited Access to Basic Housing
- Mobile Nature
- Many, Many More

# The Mental Health Problem

Substance Abuse	82%
History of Family Drug Use	62%
Depression	66%
Prescribed Meds for Depression	20%
Attempted Suicide	44%
Currently Suicidal	16%
Homicidal/Hurtful Ideation	10%
Hearing Voices	8%
Visual Hallucinations	12%



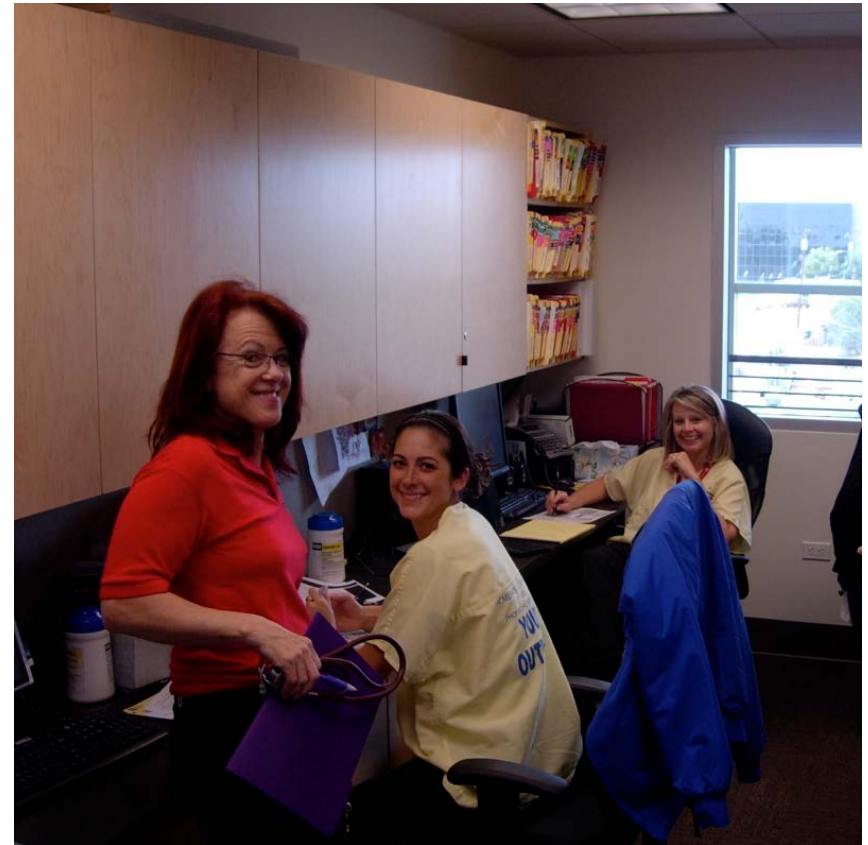
# Medical Home



- Accessible
- Continuous
- Comprehensive
- Family-centered
- Coordinated
- Compassionate
- Culturally Sensitive

# The Enhanced Medical Home

- Holistic Approach
- Thoughtful Interviewing
- Mental Health
- Dental Health
- Mentorship
- Life Skills
- Job Placement
- Shelter
- Legal Referral



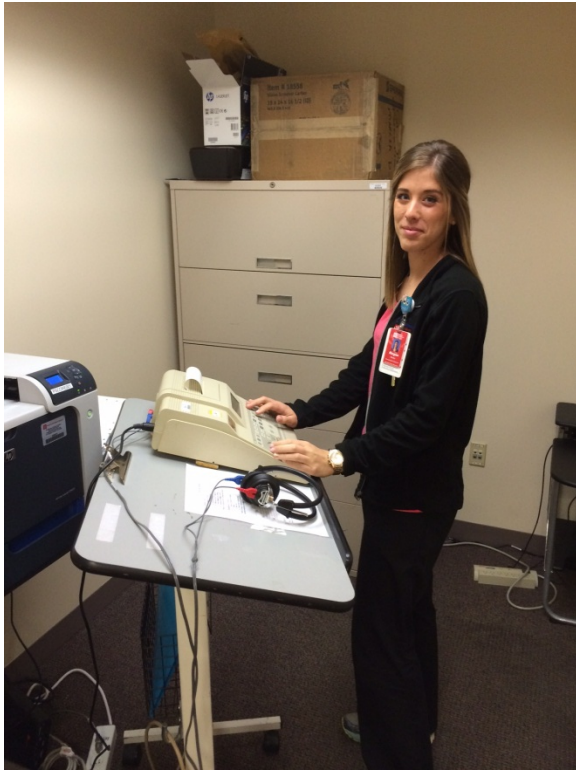
# Innovative Approaches



# Innovative Approaches Continued



# Vision, Hearing & Development Screenings



**S.**  
Screenings

**C.**  
with Care,

**O.**  
Outcomes,

**R.**  
Referrals

**E.**  
and Education



Lions Club  
VisionQuest

# Collaborations

1 in 10

Children First Academy

Health Care for the Homeless

HomeBase Youth Services

Sonora Quest Laboratories

StreetLight USA

Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development

UMOM New Day Centers

# Medical Education Collaborations

PCH Residents

Banner Residents

Medical Students

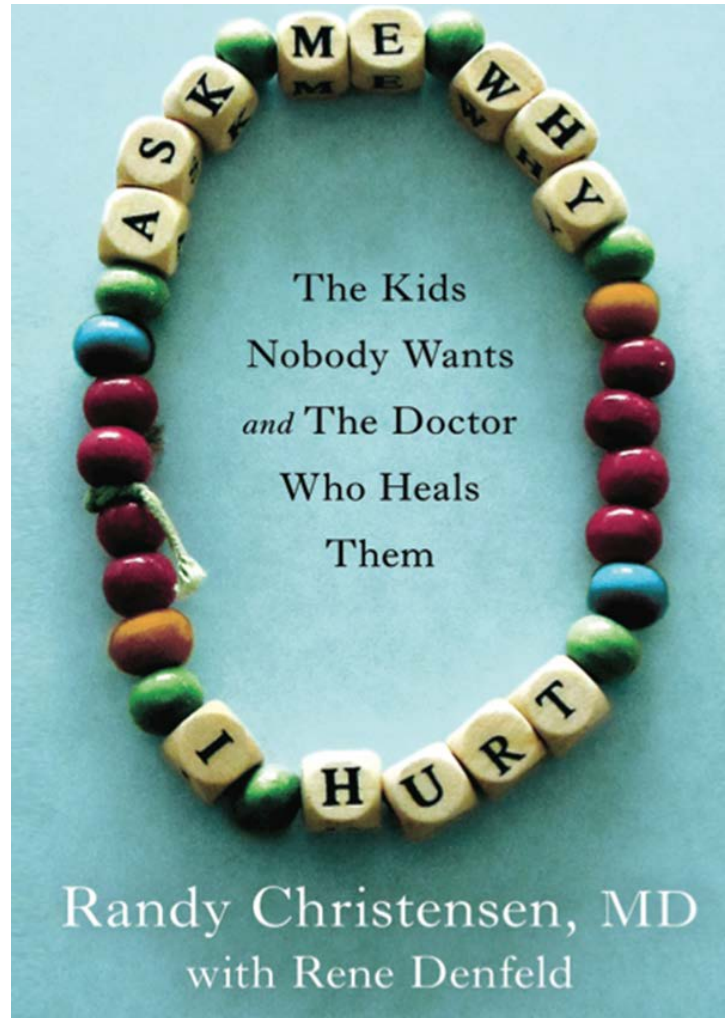
Nursing Students

Allied Health Students



# Advocacy at State and Federal Levels





# Final Words

- Only a comprehensive “full spoke” program can succeed in ending homelessness and the connected problems
- ***Rchrste@phoenixchildrens.com***
- [www.crewsnhealthmobile.com](http://www.crewsnhealthmobile.com)
- [www.askmewhyihurt.com](http://www.askmewhyihurt.com)
- 888-373-7888 National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) Hotline

# Thank You



# Mobile Unit Build Out



