



# URBAN PEAK

## **CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING**

Youth experiencing homelessness are at a significant risk of being recruited into the sex trade. One in three youth are approached for the purposes of sex trafficking within 48 hours of leaving home. At Urban Peak, we serve 2,300 youth a year — that's potentially 800 youth who will be approached for trafficking each year here in Denver. Some youth seek out Urban Peak because they are being sexually exploited by their caregivers who sell them into the sex trade in exchange for money or drugs. Unfortunately, there are some youth who have been absorbed into sex rings who are so closely monitored, and instilled with such a high level of fear and shame so deep, that seeking help from Urban Peak or others in unthinkable and leaving is almost impossible.

## **ABOUT URBAN PEAK**

Founded in 1988, Urban Peak is the only non-profit organization in Denver that provides a full convergence of services for youth ages 15 through 24 experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Our goal is to meet youth where they are and to provide them with the assistance and support they need to become self-sufficient or obtain the necessary services they need to maintain a safe existence.

## **THE YOUTH**

The journey of every youth we serve at Urban Peak is different. Some were brought to Denver by traffickers and later abandoned, left to fend for themselves; some escaped their caregivers to avoid being sold into the sex trade. Some grew up alone, neglected, watching their parents succumb to a life of drugs and crime; some followed in their parents footsteps. Some were recently released from the juvenile justice system or aged out of foster care, left without a home or the independent living skills needed to survive. Some were kicked out of their homes for revealing their sexual orientation or identity, while others escaped to avoid a life of physical, emotional or sexual abuse at the hands of a caretaker. Some are the children of the chronically homeless; some only recently came to the streets after their parents lost their jobs. Some suffer from mental or physical wounds so deep they need constant care, while others are battling substance abuse issues, using drugs and alcohol as a means to numb the pain. Whatever their reasons for being at Urban Peak, our staff is trained to meet the youth where they are to provide an environment where the youth can begin to heal.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Urban Peak provides numerous programs and services that are founded on the principles of trauma-informed care to assist youth in reaching their potential and living a successful life off of the streets.

Services include, but are not limited to:

- Street Outreach
- Overnight Shelter (ages 15 through 20)
- Daytime Drop-In Center
- Affordable Housing
- Education Services (GED preparation, high school & college assistance)
- Employment Services (job readiness training, career fairs, & more)
- Case Management
- Life Skills Courses
- Clinical & Medical Services