

The Facts About Child Abuse In America:

The United States has the worst record of child abuse in industrialized nations. Child abuse and neglect affects **6 million children** each year and more than **5 children die every day** as result. Sadly, many more cases go unreported.

Survivors of child abuse typically enter the child welfare system and are placed in foster care or group homes until they can be placed back with their family or are adopted. Almost **half a million children** are in the United States foster care system. Approximately **30,000 children age out of the system annually**. This underserved youth population dramatically increases each year.

Many who age out of foster care at 18 or older entered the system as teenagers. As they prepare to transition to independent living, they need support and services that foster the skills necessary to enter adulthood successfully. **Studies of youth who leave foster care without a safe, permanent support system reveal consistently negative outcomes.**

- An estimated **25 percent** do not have a high school diploma or GED.
- **Less than 2 percent will finish college** compared with 23 percent of youth in the general population.
- **Over half will experience** one or more episodes of **homelessness**.
- Nearly **30 percent** are **incarcerated** at some point.
- Youth who aged out of foster care were **less likely to be employed** or to have health insurance than were their peers who had not been in foster care.

Eddie's Road strives to alter these negative statistics. By supporting programs aimed at youth between the ages of 14-18 we can teach, mentor and coach at-risk children to lead independent, fulfilling and productive lives.

Our mission is to stop the cycle of abuse, neglect, and dependency. As these children grow to positive, productive adults, the cycle can end with them.

We cannot do this important work without the help of business leaders, faith-based organizations and individuals throughout our communities.

Your organization can assist through sponsorships, grants, donations and support of the many Eddie's Road events held across the US.