

RITE OF PASSAGE

THE EMBRACING PROJECT

The Intersection Between Homelessness
and
Commercially Sexually Exploited Children

**PRESENTATION TO THE
INTERIM HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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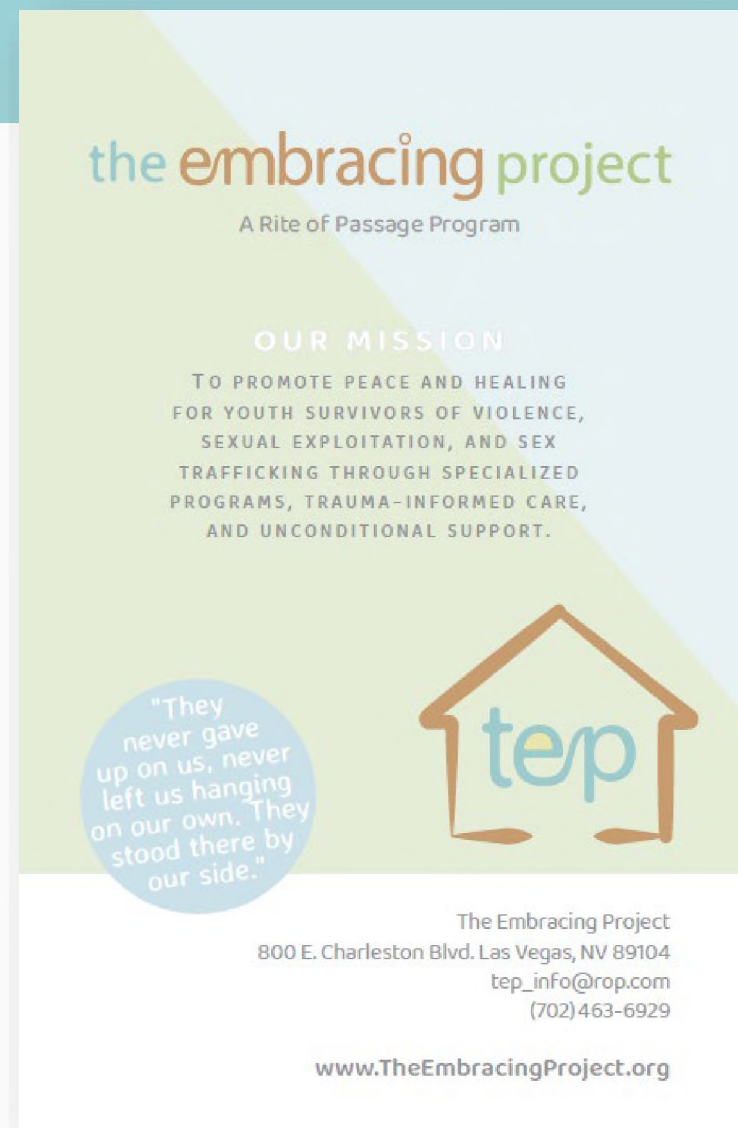
ABOUT US

About the Organization:

- 35+ -year Nevada non-profit
- Guided by the mission of “improving the lives of youth, families, and communities”
- Services include:
 - Advocacy
 - Foster Care services
 - Mentoring
 - Job skills training and employment assistance
 - Shelter Services
 - Outpatient Treatment
 - Residential Treatment (in multiple states)

The Embracing Project, a Rite of Passage Program, provides:

- Trauma-informed wrap-around services for youth victims and survivors of interpersonal violence
- Court advocacy, court accompaniment, and individual advocacy.
- Drop-in Center services including CCSD-approved educational program, mental and behavioral health services, basic needs assistance, job readiness, life-skills education, and more.
- Mentorship and preventative programming and support
- Parent support and education



The Embracing Project logo features the text "the embracing project" in a sans-serif font, with "the" in blue, "embracing" in orange, and "project" in green. Below it, "A Rite of Passage Program" is written in a smaller, dark grey font. The mission statement is centered in all caps: "OUR MISSION TO PROMOTE PEACE AND HEALING FOR YOUTH SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND SEX TRAFFICKING THROUGH SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS, TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE, AND UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT." A stylized house icon contains the letters "tep" in blue. A circular quote bubble on the left says, "They never gave up on us, never left us hanging on our own. They stood there by our side." The contact information at the bottom right includes the address "800 E. Charleston Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89104", email "tep_info@rop.com", phone "(702) 463-6929", and website "www.TheEmbracingProject.org".

the embracing project

A Rite of Passage Program

OUR MISSION

TO PROMOTE PEACE AND HEALING
FOR YOUTH SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE,
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND SEX
TRAFFICKING THROUGH SPECIALIZED
PROGRAMS, TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE,
AND UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT.

"They never gave up on us, never left us hanging on our own. They stood there by our side."

tep

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ROP currently operates the only drop-in center for sexually exploited youth in Las Vegas.

Why are we here?



For almost 20 years Clark County has seen an increasing need/demand for services related to homelessness and sexually exploited youth.

Homelessness and Human Trafficking issues are related

Youth Homelessness & Sexual Exploitation

- 68% of youth who reported being trafficked for sex, exchanging sex for money, or engaging in survival sex reported doing so while homeless.
- 19% of those identified youth reported engaging in survival sex.
- LGBTQ+ Youth are 3-7 times more likely to engage in survival sex.
- 15% disclosed being recruited from a shelter program

(Polaris, 2018)

SURVIVAL SEX

Engaging in
sexual activity for
basic necessities

Not always
considered CSEC

Lack of Resources

Imbalance of
Power

Recruitment
through intimate
relationships

Extremely
Underreported

Homeless Youth Program OBJECTIVES

1. To expand our capacity in providing safe and stable transitional housing for sexually exploited youth.

- In 2021 ROP attained a license to operate transitional housing for sexually exploited youth. A safe house is successfully providing a safe home for youth to live.

2. To continue to provide individualized therapeutic services to youth in need.

- In 2022 TEP received approval to provide Medicaid reimbursable outpatient services to youth.



Drop-In Center Services

INDIVIDUAL, GROUP, & FAMILY THERAPY. In partnership with other community organizations, ROP/TEP maintains a dedicated team of trauma-focused therapists who provide individual, group, and family therapy for our clients. All therapists are well versed in the unique therapeutic needs of the CSEC population and conduct weekly sessions for those they see.

CRISIS INTERVENTION. ROP/TEP Advocates provide short-term immediate de-escalation of client crisis situations. A large number of crises that our clients go through are; returning to the “life”, issues in family dynamics, domestic violence, parental physical abuse, suicidal ideation, homelessness, pregnancy, and running away.

CCSD ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

TEP is an approved site for the CCSD Adult Education program. This program allows youth who are not able to effectively participate in “regular” high school the opportunity to work at their own pace and graduate with either their high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate (HiSet).

MATERIAL RESOURCES. ROP/TEP always ensures that youth in our program have access to hygiene items such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. It is important for youth to have access to hygiene supplies to be able to take care of their personal care needs, help with self-image, and assist with their confidence.

GIRL CIRCLE. 12 weeks of informal chat sessions focused on self-esteem, body image, substance abuse, and so much more.

Empowering Classes. TEP provides clients with a range of educational and empowering classes. These culturally inclusive classes aim to provide youth with the knowledge necessary to protect themselves from predators, maintain their own body’s health, and discuss issues relating to being a younger person.

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

With the ultimate goal of helping youth obtain employment and increase independence, ROP/TEP Advocates assist youth with making and building a resume, practicing interview skills, filling out job applications and building confidence.



THANK YOU
Questions?