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Press Release

Source: Covenant House

Covenant House Taps Kevin M. Ryan as New President

Thursday January 15, 12:38 pm ET

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 /PRNewswire/ – New Jersey's first commissioner of Children and Families, Kevin M. Ryan, has been named the new President and CEO of Covenant House, the largest privately funded nonprofit agency in North and Central America helping homeless youth. The agency annually serves 70,000 street youth in six countries, including the United States, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mr. Ryan will be the agency's fourth president in its 37-year history.

(Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20090115/NY59349>)

Mr. Ryan has committed his life and career to serve as an advocate for youth, including several prominent government leadership positions and an extensive history protecting homeless youth. He was named New Jersey's first Child Advocate in 2003, before being tapped by Governor Jon Corzine in 2006 to lead a reform of the State's child welfare system.

Mr. Ryan forged his commitment to homeless youth as an advocate and counsel to teens in crisis through a decade of work at Covenant House in New York City's Times Square, the South Bronx, Newark and Atlantic City from 1992 to 2002.

"The courage of homeless kids, especially in the dead of winter, is extraordinary," said Ryan. "Covenant House staff and donors all across the world have been moved by kids' suffering and become icons of God's love in the world. I'm coming home to Covenant House to rejoin their ranks and lead their fight against those who hurt our kids, especially those who exploit them and traffic them and throw them away."

Last year, Mr. Ryan was appointed to monitor efforts underway in Michigan to reform its child welfare system, and he recently completed work in the District of Columbia to help stabilize and assess the City's child and family services agency. Mr. Ryan's commitment to children led him last year to help launch the office of the first United Nations Special Envoy for Malaria. The disease kills more than one million children a year, most under the age of five.

Former Covenant House President Sr. Mary Rose McGeady applauded Mr. Ryan's designation. "I have known Kevin personally for nearly 20 years, and I believe he is a perfect choice to lead this mission. He is a tireless fighter, a courageous believer in doing what's right, and a passionate believer in the dignity and beauty of every child."

As President and CEO, Mr. Ryan will be responsible for the overall management and long-term strategic planning of Covenant House, which includes 21 sites in six countries. Covenant House serves homeless youth in Anchorage, Atlanta, Atlantic City, Detroit, Fort Lauderdale, Houston, Guatemala City, Los Angeles, Managua, Mexico City, Newark, New Orleans, New York, Oakland, Orlando, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Tegucigalpa, Toronto, Vancouver, and Washington, D.C. Mr. Ryan will assume this new position in February 2009.

As New Jersey Child Advocate, Mr. Ryan's work shed significant light on the illegal detention of children awaiting mental health care and the dangerous overcrowding of juvenile residential centers. He helped to craft some of New Jersey's most important laws, including the New Jersey Homeless Youth Act in 1999, the New Jersey FamilyCare Health Coverage Act in 2000 and the creation of the New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program in 2003.

Mr. Ryan is a B.A. graduate of The Catholic University of America and a J.D. graduate of Georgetown Law Center. He earned his LL.M. (Masters of Law) from NYU Law School, where he focused on public interest law. A native of New Jersey, Ryan currently resides in Fair Haven, N.J. with his wife Clare and their six children.

ABOUT COVENANT HOUSE

Founded in 1972, Covenant House is the largest privately funded agency in the Americas helping homeless kids, providing 24/7 crisis care and ongoing support at 21 facilities, www.NINELINE.org, Covenant House NINELINE (1-800-999-9999) and www.covenanthouse.org.

Source: Covenant House

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