15th Night

Problem: Last year Eugene, 273 unaccompanied homeless minors were struggling to stay in school while they grappled daily with where they were going to sleep, how they were going to eat, wash their clothes and get to school the next day. Tragically by year's end, 90 of these youth dropped out of school and most likely ended up on the street. Additionally, the Eugene Police Department logged 150 runaway reports last year. Experience shows that a youth who spends more than 14 consecutive nights on the street are 80% more likely to become chronically homeless.

Ideally, a broad network of service providers (individuals, families, non-profits, faith-based organizations, public agencies and others) would be available in real-time to offer homeless youth assistance with food, shelter, clothing and other resources to stay off the street or to quickly transition them off the street and back to a safe healthy path to adulthood.

Challenge: Produce a product in which anybody in the 15th Night service provider network can query (in real time) all others in the network about availability of services. For example, if a youth needs a safe place to stay for two weeks, someone with access to the 15th Night network can ask the network: "Does anybody have a place for a (describe the youth) to stay for two weeks?" All members of the network would receive the query immediately (24/7/365) as a priority request and be able to respond immediately. The product must allow for service providers to be added or subtracted as new needs and providers are identified. The ability to accumulate usage data would be helpful. The ideal product would be very user-friendly with a simple but attractive interface.

Assets: A detailed listing of core service providers and common needs including jobs, shelter, mentor advocates, clothing and personal care items, and mental health services.

Prize: A one night stay at the Inn at the 5th boutique hotel, a $250 gift certificate to the 5th Street Market and lunch with the mayor and City Manager for you and your organization of choice.

Sponsor: Inn at the 5th, Mayor Kitty Piercy and Eugene City Manager Jon Ruiz