



### What We Need From Our Allies

1. **Tell your people what's going on with YWEP-** use the talking points below to help the conversation.
2. **Correct any myths or rumors** you might hear in the community about why & how we made this decision.
3. **We know this news is hard for everyone—it's hardest for us.** Please process your feelings about it with another ally in the community rather than with YWEP youth staff or membership.
4. **If you need facts & information please contact us directly** through emailing our youth staff [Daphnie@youarepriceless.org](mailto:Daphnie@youarepriceless.org) **Please do not talk to our youth membership about this process**
5. Support us in this decision to sunset-- **Trust us that we are doing the right thing.** Remember the words of one of our founders Claudine O'Leary—Rescue is for Kittens! We have made this decision from an empowered place and collectively and we ask you to have our backs and know that we did what we had to do to survive.
6. **Honor our legacy**—we ask that you pick up pieces of the work we've done by distributing our materials, continuing to believe in girls, transgender youth and all homeless, home-free and street based young people, post great things about our organization using social media, continue holding our key values in your hearts and in your movement work. Please remember and talk about things that YWEP did that were important to you. Use our research! Use our statements! Put us in your curriculums, your books, articles and keep us alive in this movement.
7. Continue to **support our constituency**—we ask that you commit to creating spaces that honor and welcome youth with this life experience by being non-judgmental, and compassionate. We ask that you listen to what people in the sex trade say about their lives. Please employ young people in the sex trade in jobs that use their skills. Please continue to support our youth leaders in Chicago who will be carrying on the campaign.



8. **Participate in our National Oral History Project** and help us spread the word about it. We will be releasing details about it soon!

### Talking Points About Our Sunsetting Process

1. **YWEP is fiscally sound.** This decision was made mid-year so that we can have a thoughtful closing process and transition our staff, membership & programs into sustainable next steps
2. This decision was made through consensus with YWEP's leadership after a year of struggle. **We had 100% agreement in this decision and we ask for your trust that we made the best choice we could make.**
3. **YWEP tried many things to stay open,** like merging and changing our staffing around. We talked with many experts, lawyers and consultants. We could not come up with an option that was both financially sustainable.
4. **The financial crisis made it hard for us to keep hiring leaders-** and promoting them as they moved up the leadership ladder. Our leaders are ready to have more hours and more pay and we can't afford that
5. YWEP is staffed entirely by youth of color with life experience in the sex trade and street economy. **The Anti-Trafficking movement changed laws that have made YWEP young people unsafe.** We won't let our youth become targets.
6. **Our leadership is moving to other exciting things.** Dominique is going to College full time in the fall and got her tuition paid for 😊 Daphnie is also going to school to become a Veterinary Assistant- her dream is to work with animals. Naima is hoping to go back to school to for art.