

# Safer tech: A lifeline for underserved populations

For homeless, foster, migrant, and trafficked youth, access to a phone is not a luxury — it's a necessity. The Bark Phone provides connection, communication, and above all, safety.

#### ONE

## Close the digital divide while supporting mental health

The digital divide can leave vulnerable youth isolated, as many social interactions and sources of community support now happen online. Without connectivity, teens may face challenges like chronic absenteeism and lower graduation rates. A safer device addresses these needs by offering essential features like location tracking while also providing access to critical online resources, all within a secure environment that ensures safety and confidence.



"The Bark Phone is different because it's built for safety. You can't just slap parental controls on a regular phone and expect it to work."

-Gabi, program director of Poiema Foundation

#### TWO

### Provide learning opportunities for a healthy relationship with tech

Digital literacy is crucial for fostering independence and safety. Teenagers often share content online without realizing the potential risks — like a violation of personal privacy, identity theft, or becoming a target for online predators. At-risk youth are at greater risk of certain online threats, and providing a structured phone environment can lead to conversations around recognizing dangerous online scenarios and navigating them safely.

#### **THREE**

## Strengthen online safety skills and accountability

Underserved youth need real protection to safeguard them online as digital threats continue to expand as technology evolves.

Alerts add an extra layer of defense, providing crucial information regarding digital well-being before it is too late.



"The Bark Phone helps us keep our teens safe, while also providing normalcy."

-Haven's Open Arms