UNITED THROUGH CHANGE

Ensuring an effective system of response for youth in crisis through public and private partnerships at a local, state, and national level.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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“In union there is strength.”
—Aesop

UNITED THROUGH CHANGE

After experiencing an unprecedented year in 2020, many of the challenges continued into 2021. The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continued to have ripple effects felt by organizations, individuals, and families, and many frontline youth service providers suffered health struggles, staffing shortages, and burnout all while continuing to care for young people who were also suffering from a myriad of needs. Through all of the continued challenges and changes, the National Safe Place Network (NSPN) motto of “Together we can” sustained. The continued resilience of the organizations, youth, and families served as a reminder of the importance of the work and the need to remain united.

As young people continue to experience increased hardships including mental health crises, isolation, family problems, abuse, and more, NSPN and its affiliates work to continue to ensure there is a vital safety net for youth nationwide. With NSPN guidance, Safe Place® coordinators and youth services staff have been able to continue innovative forms of outreach through expanded social media campaigns, utilizing virtual presentation formats and using National Safe Place (NSP) Week to spread the word about Safe Place and TXT 4 HELP to a wider audience. Monthly coordinator chat calls give NSPN staff and Safe Place coordinators a chance to connect and have in-depth discussions and problem-solving sessions on a variety of topics. The increased hardships of young people united the field in the need to continue to work together to provide for youth in crisis.

In order to continue to work together as a field, NSPN worked to address the pressing needs of the youth services field in a variety of ways. Partnerships with Youth in Focus and the Texas Network of Youth Services allowed vital trainings in the Families Thrive™ and Youth Thrive™ curriculums to occur in a virtual format for the first time. Continued professional development opportunities were given to those both in and out of the Network through expanded sessions of the Emerging Leaders Institute and Focus 2021. Based on emerging needs in the field, NSPN was also able to hold its first annual Ideas into Action convene. Participants identified topics of urgency and were able to collaborate proactively through action planning sessions and a sharing of ideas.

As the world continues to throw unforeseen obstacles in the path of organizations, individuals, and families, NSPN and those it serves continues to move forward as a united front. The last two years have shown there is no one individual who can make sustained change themselves. It takes a network of thought leaders, individuals, organizations, volunteers, board members, and more to band together to support one another through training, development, listening, and responding to emerging needs that affect all. Together, we can stand united through change.

President and Chief Executive Officer
National Safe Place Network
Membership - Safe Place®
NATIONAL SAFE PLACE NETWORK

NSPN operates nationally recognized programs, including Safe Place®, a youth outreach and prevention program for youth in need of immediate help and safety. Safe Place also provides a national text-for-support program, TXT 4 HELP. Teens can text the word “SAFE” to 4HELP (44357) and access options to locate the nearest Safe Place and text one-on-one with a counselor. TXT 4 HELP is available 24/7/365. Additionally, NSPN provides leadership, training, and technical assistance to nearly 2,000 youth and family service providers. NSPN’s proven track record, decades of experience, and strong record of leadership are the cornerstones of the organization’s success. To learn more, please visit www.nspnetwork.org and www.nationalsafeplace.org.

MISSION
Ensuring an effective system of response for youth in crisis through public and private partnerships at a local, state and national level.

VISION
NSPN envisions a world where all youth are safe.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
NSPN operates the nationally recognized programs Safe Place®, TXT 4 HELP, and NSPN Membership.

Safe Place®
Safe Place is a national outreach and prevention program for young people in need of immediate help and safety. Approximately 22,000 community and business locations nationwide display the Safe Place sign, making help readily available. To learn more, please visit www.nationalsafeplace.org.

TXT 4 HELP
TXT 4 HELP is a nationwide, 24-hour text-for-support service for teens in crisis. TXT 4 HELP can be used for the same reason a young person may go to a Safe Place site - abuse, bullying, family problems, depression, suicidal thoughts, and others. Young people text the word ‘SAFE’ to 44357 (4HELP) to find the nearest Safe Place location to them. There is also an option ‘2chat’ to text interactively with a licensed counselor. To learn more, please visit www.nationalsafeplace.org/txt-4-help.

NSPN Membership
NSPN provides an array of training and support services tailored to meet the needs of youth service organizations in the most cost-efficient manner. NSPN membership helps support agencies and their staff by focusing on training, organizational development, and professional development. To learn more, please visit www.nspnetwork.org/membership.
NSPN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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“The greatest leaders mobilize others by coalescing people around a shared vision.”

—Ken Blanchard
2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Focus 2021 – Going All in For Youth: Collaborations for Success

After pivoting to a virtual format for 2020, Focus, NSPN’s biennial national conference, was held July 27 – 29, 2021, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino. The theme, “Going All in for Youth: Collaborations for Success,” emphasized how NSPN’s motto of “Together we can” drives the foundational concept of doing better, together. Alone, you have an idea, and together, we turn the ideas of our network into a source of solutions for youth, families, organizations, and communities. The event was designed to promote connection and learning centered around smaller groups of attendees. It quickly sold out, and NSPN worked with the venue to gain additional space to allow increased attendance.

Traditional events, such as the fishbowl learning session, the awards ceremony, and the runaway games, served to unite participants in celebration and focus on the emerging needs of youth and communities. Workshop topics focused on cross-systems collaborations, corporate partnerships, addressing mental health needs, outreach, self-care, and included Safe Place-focused options. Additional opportunities featured a Safe Place site and learn and the Change Exchange which brought agency personnel together to discuss how they were addressing change in local communities and how NSPN could assist in their efforts.

Participants strongly agreed the content was meaningful, constructive, and they will be able to implement what they learned to better serve youth and families. The event was supported by sponsorships from QT, White Castle, Maryland Banker’s Association, and the National Association for Behavioral Healthcare.

Ideas into Action

NSPN held its first annual Ideas into Action convene on October 7, 2021. Ideas into Action differed from a traditional conference or web-based presentation; this one-day virtual event was designed to focus on solution thinking and action planning in response to ongoing challenges faced by individuals, organizations, young people, and families.

Priority topics from the field were identified and included:

• Navigating Difficult Conversations about Bias, Race, and Privilege,
• The Impact of Organizational Culture and Climate on Efforts to Achieve Mission, and
• Understanding the Psychological Impact of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking on Children and Families and Addressing Barriers to Effective Intervention.

Sessions included a presentation from a national expert on the topics above, an idea exchange among participants, and an action planning session which supported participants in creating an action plan with concrete goals and strategies developed with the support of colleagues from across the country. All participants came together at the end of the event to share key takeaways from each topic.
2021 HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

National Safe Place (NSP) Week 2021 – Connecting with Care

In a time where separation is seen as a primary means of protection, the idea of “connecting” has taken on new meaning. Safe Place® is about connecting youth with safe resources – when and where they need them most. Held March 21–27, 2021, NSP Week focused on the importance of connecting with care and the important work of licensed Safe Place agencies to support youth.

Agencies nationwide united around the three national goals of NSP Week; to increase awareness of Safe Place, build community support for Safe Place, and recognize individuals, organizations, and businesses supportive of Safe Place. Licensed agencies participated in a variety of activities to help meet these goals, including virtual and in-person fairs and other events. Many agencies utilized social media to share information about Safe Place, TXT 4 HELP, their agency, and their partners, utilizing #NSPWeek2021 over 70 times throughout the week. The work may have looked different than prior years as agencies continue to learn from and navigate the effects of COVID-19, but NSP Week 2021 served to unite communities in the vision of a world where all youth are safe.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

—Margaret Mead
In 2021, NSPN membership provided a variety of exclusive membership benefits and fee-for-service opportunities to build community and expand awareness of the network.

Organizations affiliated with NSPN reported continued struggles to adapt and move through the changes associated with both internal and external pressures. Internally, organizations faced high rates of turnover, challenges in recruiting qualified staff, and increased compassion fatigue and burn-out in those staff who carried the load for vacant positions. Externally, organizations faced continued needs related to COVID-19; concerns about systemic racism and issues of equity; and community assumptions about youth in crisis. Organizations have shared the impact of NSPN can be found not only in the resources provided but also in the how NSPN supports them and unites with the field to think about potential solutions and to celebrate success in the midst of so much change.

To assist members, NSPN included resources in monthly publications such as NSPNsights and on the NSPN website. Individual consultations focused on concerns of member organization staff as related to organizational safety, outreach, self-care, leadership, and sustainability.

SUPPORTING STAFF

- NSPN partnered with Youth in Focus to conduct the virtual Families Thrive™ Training of Trainers for the Texas Systems of Care. Families Thrive™ brings together the latest research on child development, brain biology, and the impact of trauma on development to help young people, parents, caregivers, and professionals understand and respond to youth and their caretakers in ways that increase engagement and the likelihood of healthy developmental outcomes. Families Thrive™ applies the protective and promotive factors framework that has been shown to support health, well-being, and thriving in young people across childhood into young adulthood. The content offers an integrated approach that can be used as a basis for systems integration and community change efforts based on the best ideas currently available. 40 participants participated in 54 virtual training hours.
NSPN hosted a Youth Thrive™ Training of Trainers in partnership with the Texas Network of Youth Services. This curriculum, developed by the Center for the Study on Social Policy, is a 36-hour intensive overview of assisting youth to develop the protective and promotive factors necessary for healthy development. Participants from three states completed the month-long training.

**SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS**

- **Grant Support Services** – Each year, the NSPN team provides intensive support to those organizations seeking funding from federal entities. In 2021, several organizations participated in weekly support calls, viewed recorded webinar walkthroughs of funding opportunity announcements (FOA), and received written evaluations of draft proposals. From the organizations receiving support from NSPN, the aggregate funding request to the federal government was $7,650,000. Of this amount, $7,050,000 was approved for funding. Participants of the proposal review process rated the experience a 5 out of 5 with specific mention of the intensive, individualized support provided seven days a week.

- **Customized Organization Training** – NSPN works with member organizations to develop and provide specific trainings designed to meet each organization’s needs. Specific topics addressed in 2021 included self-care, trauma-informed interventions, and HTTR3 (Human Trafficking Recognize, Respect, and Respond) Training of Trainers.

- **NSPNsights** – Monthly e-newsletters were distributed to support the varied needs of organizations. Each edition featured an overview of available resources from NSPN and other national entities, funding announcements, an overview of upcoming events, and a brain break for staff.

- **Resources were created and posted to the website for the benefit of all members.** For example, “Maximizing the Impact of Volunteers – A Handbook for Non-Profit Organizations” aims to assist organizations in uniting with community volunteers of all ages in efforts to affect lasting and meaningful change.

- **The virtual NSPN Support Center was maintained for staff of all member organizations.**

**ADDITIONAL VIRTUAL EVENTS**

- **Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI)** – Due to continued sustained growth and demand, NSPN added a second session of ELI for 2021. This intensive six-week distance learning event targeted analysis of leadership strengths, development and refinement of decision-making skills, and scenario-based discussions to enhance solution thinking abilities. 34 participants participated between the spring and fall sessions and shared positive feedback related to their experience. Uniting to discuss how change impacts leadership expectations was an effective use of time.

  Of 2021 ELI participants shared they would recommend the institute to others, felt the experience was worth the time, and believed the content and discussions will contribute to continuing leadership development.

  “I believe this will enhance my professional and personal abilities to help myself, my staff, and program grow to their full potential.”

  “I really enjoyed the experience. I hope to reach out to some people in this cohort in the future for feedback on decisions I am making. I really valued the moments I was able to connect more directly with individuals. It’s not too often you get to routinely meet with peers across the country.”
Training of Facilitators and Trainers – This virtual, four-week event served to bring participants from six states together to learn or refresh skills necessary for effective virtual and in-person training and facilitations. Participants completed the event by either training on a topic of choice or facilitating a conversation of focus. Content included topics such as assessing the needs of an audience, addressing the needs of challenging attendees, and creating a training plan for success. Participants expressed they were pleased to have the opportunity to connect in this way.

“This is a great training for anyone, regardless of your training experience. As someone who has been doing trainings for 10 years, I got a lot out of this.”

“This training fosters professional relationships as participants feel comfortable in the space to be themselves and take opportunities to share their experiences. My training group was very supportive and provided appropriate feedback for professional growth.”

LEADERSHIP TO THE FIELD – UNITED BEYOND ORGANIZATIONAL LINES

- NSPN staff demonstrated the importance of remaining united through change by offering volunteer service as members of boards of directors and consultants to other entities. NSPN staff serve as members of the board for National Network for Youth, Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Association for Child and Youth Care Practice, and the Child and Youth Care Certification Board.

- NSPN staff contracted with F2 Solutions to provide grant review training to reviewers and panel chairs contracted by the federal government as subject matter experts.

- NSPN staff presented multiple workshops at the National Board of Certified Counselors Bridging the Gap Symposium. Presentation topics included grant writing, Self-Care 360, and Building Trauma-Resilient Communities.

- NSPN staff participated as thought leaders in Twitter chats for Texas Network of Youth Services and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

LISTENING TO THE FIELD

- NSPN maintained a national advisory board. The group of representatives provided valuable feedback, guidance, and recommendations to all NSPN services. The group met quarterly with monthly meetings of sub-committees.
IMPACTFUL SAFE PLACE® STORIES – UNITING WITH LOCAL AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO YOUTH

Safe Place®, at its core, reflects NPSN’s efforts and vision of a world where all youth are safe. NSPN monitors the experiences of youth served to help shape services provided. Continuing to learn about ever-changing challenges young people face helps identify gaps in available resources and enhances services and support.

“A 16-year-old ran away from her home. She was taken by sex traffickers and had been held captive until she was able to escape in another state. She saw a Safe Place sign and called the after-hours number on the door and reached the shelter. She explained she was on the run and needed help. Staff picked her up and brought her safely back to the shelter. Staff notified the police and her family. Her parents cried when they heard she had been found. They got in the car and immediately drove to the shelter. After being cleared, they were reunited with their daughter.”

“A 16-year-old was in QT with several suitcases. An employee approached the youth to learn about their situation and they explained they were kicked out four weeks ago and had been couch surfing and living on the streets since. The QT employee told them about Safe Place and connected them with our staff. When they arrived at our shelter, the youth was assessed, given food, and situated into a bedroom. The next day, staff called child welfare as their parents confirmed they were kicked out and not welcome back. DCS began an investigation. They are now familiar with the program, were able to get off of the streets, and are engaged in community supports.”
UNITED IN OVERCOMING CHANGES TO ASSIST YOUTH IN CRISIS

Licensed Safe Place agencies continued to find innovative and consistent ways to reach out to youth in crisis. Safe Place coordinators participated in monthly coordinator chat calls to share ideas and solution-think shared challenges. Agencies reported ongoing efforts to operate effectively and safely despite challenges posed by COVID-19. Organizations conducted virtual trainings, used social media to maximize outreach to youth in crisis, used technology to complete site checks, and conducted support sessions for youth through web-based platforms. NSPN focused on providing support to these agencies and to new communities seeking to expand the safety net for youth in crisis.

Presentations and Resources

- NSPN staff presented as part of the American Public Transportation Associations Monthly Safety Spotlight Webinar Series highlighting how transit partners can and do support youth in crisis by uniting with NSPN to expand the Safe Place Program.
- Monthly coordinator chat calls featured opportunities for coordinators to share ideas and to ask questions to ensure effective Safe Place operations.
- Virtual Safe Place implementation trainings for potential new communities served to clarify expectations of the program and to help communities action plan the development of the program at the local level.

UNITED TO EXPAND SAFE PLACE’S NATIONAL EFFORT

New Safe Place programs were launched in the following communities:

- Boise, Idaho
- Portland, Oregon
- Wilmington, North Carolina

Safe Place Implementation Trainings conducted for the following communities:

- Jacksonville, Florida
- Phoenix, Arizona
- The Big Island, Hawaii

Businesses involved in Safe Place:

- AAA
- Chick-Fil-A
- Hess Express
- Meijer
- Super 8
- Target
- Terrible Herbst
- Texas Roadhouse
- Tijuana Flats
- Tim Horton’s

- Ace Hardware
- Circle K
- Hilton Garden Inn
- Mr. Gatti’s
- OnCue
- Piggly Wiggly
- Publix
- Tops Market
- United Supermarket
- Valero
- Walgreen’s
- Wal-Mart
- Wendy’s
- White Castle

- Albertson’s
- Cold Stone Creamery
- Home Depot
- HyVee
- IGA
- Quality Inn
- Red Lion Hotels
- Sleep Inn
- Sonic
- Starbucks

- American Eagle
- Comcast
- Hotel Indigo
- Jamba Juice
- QuikTrip
- Rally’s
- Subway

- Outfitters
- Comfort Suites
- IHOP
- Kona Ice
- Red Lion Hotels
- Sonic
- Steak & Shake
- Subway

- America’s Best
- Country Inn & Suites
- Jack in the Box
- Krispy Kreme
- Kona Ice
- Starbucks

- Value Hotels
- Culver’s
- KFC
- Kroger
- Lowe’s
- McDonald’s

- Amtrak stations
- CVS
- IHOP
- QuikTrip
- Rally’s
- Subway

- Arby’s
- Dairy Queen
- Jack in the Box
- Red Lion Hotels
- Sleep Inn
- Sonic

- Back Yard Burgers
- Days Inn
- KFC
- Rally’s
- Subway

- Baskin Robbins
- Domino’s Pizza
- Kona Ice
- Starbucks
- Subway

- Bush’s Chicken
- Food Lion
- Krispy Kreme
- Sonic
- Steak & Shake

- Bojangles
- Greyhound
- Kroger
- Starbucks
- Subway

- Burger King
- Hardees
- Lowe’s
- Subway

- Church’s Chicken
- HEB Foods
- McDonald’s
- Subway

Not for Profit and Government Partners Include:

- Airports
- City and County Municipal Buildings
- Emergency Medical Services
- Faith-based Services
- Fire Departments
- Health Departments
- Law Enforcement Offices

Libraries
- Parks and Recreational Offices and Vehicles
- Public Schools
- Transit Authorities
- United States Post Office
- Zoos

TAXONOMY: Safe Place

THANK YOU!

NSPN thanks all of the local business, non-profit, community, and mobile sites for their support of Safe Place and the efforts of local licensed agencies. NSPN thanks all of the local business, non-profit, community, and mobile sites for their support of Safe Place and the efforts of local licensed agencies.
YOUTH IN CRISIS – RESPONDING TO THE NEED

2021 Safe Place Statistics

- **3,685** youth helped at Safe Place sites or over the phone
- **39** states and District of Columbia
- **144** licensed agencies
- **1,451** communities in **342** counties
- **21,785** Safe Place stationary and mobile sites
- **877** Safe Place volunteers including youth
- **16,189** texts received via TXT 4 HELP – **1,288** interactive
- **392,952** young people were educated about Safe Place and TXT 4 HELP

Reasons Youth Access Services through Safe Place:

- Family problems: **460**
- Homeless: **297**
- Runaway: **244**
- Abuse/Neglect: **118**
- Other: **102**
- Suicidal: **99**
- Immediate Safety: **47**
- Locked out: **36**
- Mental Health Issues: **35**
- Trafficking Victim: **5**

“Safety starts with awareness. Awareness starts with you.”
—Unknown

“@SafePlace has served 383,000 youth since 1983. If you’re a youth who is struggling with bullying, homelessness, human trafficking, or more, we’re here to help. For more information visit www.nationalsafeplace.org. #KeepKidsSafe”
2021 CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS

$100,000 +
QuikTrip Corporation

$10,000 - $25,000
UPS
Anonymous

$2,500 - $9,999
APM Cares, Inc.
Maryland Bankers Association
White Castle
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare
Tammy L. Hopper
Laurie Jackson
Anonymous
Anonymous

$2,000 - $2,499
Pam & Terry Carter

$1,000 - $1,999
Kyle Seamon
Gary Colen
Mike Fitz
Mark Giuffre
Janet T. Ramey
Julia Richardson
Lauren Sherry
T-Mobile USA Foundation
Michelle Tutunjian
James T. Wallace, Ph.D.

$500 - $999
Children’s Aid Society of Alabama
Marie Shaw, in memory of John Shaw
Gayle Watts

$200 - $499
Charlene Wakefield
Promod Bishnoi
Sammie Carlile
Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry, in honor of Tammy Hopper
Ramon Looby
Elizabeth Smith Miller

$100 - $199
Chrisana Reveley, in honor of Avatar Meher Baba
Roger Daniel
Daniella Pizzurro
Kathy E. Hatfield
Sandy Bowen
Valerie Douglas
Melinda Giovengo
Autumn Sandlin-Moore

$50 - $99
Suzanne Brocato
Missy & Charlie Blackorby
Dave & Liz Brennan
Judith Clark
Craig Jarboe
Jacqueline Limage
Kirstin London
David Mount
Network for Good
William Reynolds

$5 - $49
Dannie Hippler
Dwight Willis
Michelle Weinraub
Diana Seiffert
Elizabeth & Livia Karon, in honor of their school teachers
Ryan Patrick Kell
Lara Johnson
Nicole M. Leckenby
Bree Gee
James E. Keeton, in honor of Austin and Richmond Keeton
Benjamin James Warren
Richard Wolf
Mary Johanna Beeler
Charities Aid Foundation of America
Sydney Foster
Brianne Gallina
Joli Guenthner
Kelsey Mosley

2021 NSPN FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Revenue

Expenses

Total Revenue: $564,551

Total Expenses: $672,141

Contributions and Grants $232,644
In-kind Donations $5,000
Government Grants $0
Membership Dues $154,932
Programs $144,919
Program Materials Sales $24,798
Interest Income $546
Miscellaneous $1,712
Assets released from restriction $22,115

Program Services $488,473.00
Management and General $132,868.00
Fundraising $50,800.00
“Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration wonderful things can be achieved.”

—Mattie Stepanek