



Fall 2013

The Connection

The National Safe Place Newsletter

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NATIONAL SAFE PLACE AND THE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES NETWORK JOIN TO FORM THE

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE NETWORK

National Safe Place (NSP) and the Youth and Family Services Network (YFSN), formerly the Southeastern Network, have come together to operate as the National Safe Place Network.

"This is the blending of two solid organizations that provide services to agencies across the United States whose mission is to serve youth and families," said Tammy Hopper, Chief Strategic Initiatives Officer for National Safe Place. "Moving forward, the combination of this network will provide agencies with a fully integrated set of benefits and services."

NSP and YFSN have had a long-standing relationship with one another. In fact, the first conference that supported the possible replication of the Safe Place model was a Southeastern Network conference. During the past 10 years, both

organizations have hosted three major conferences and worked together on several projects.

In late 2012, YFSN partnered with NSP as a sub-contractor to implement the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYT-TAC). As the two organizations worked together, both in creating the application and implementing the project, it became clear that there was a significant opportunity to combine efforts to dramatically increase reach while maintaining the ability to meet their respective organizational missions.

As the organization continues to grow and expand its reach, the overall focus will be to provide quality training and assistance services to help strengthen youth organizations as they strengthen youth, families and communities.

Laurie's Corner



What an exciting time to be connected to National Safe Place! In this our 30th year, we continue to expand into new communities

and new endeavors. So many great things are happening for this organization and the future is looking just as bright. NSP just announced our coming together with one of the premiere national training organizations in the runaway and homeless youth field, the Youth and Family Services Network. YFSN, formerly the Southeastern Network, has a successful 35 year history of working with member agencies to enhance their ability to do the best work with youth and fami-

lies in local communities. This coming together, along with NSP's expansion in providing the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center for the Family and Youth Services Bureau is truly expanding the reach and awareness of National Safe Place.

As the year continues, success continues; the rebranding of National Safe Place is almost complete. I would like to give a huge thank you to all of our agencies who have completed the rebranding of their Safe Place program and all of their sites. As 2013 winds down, agencies will continue to see examples of our growth and the results of this merger. In the process are a new look for the combined website, new videos for Safe Place and information on the planned events

sponsored by National Safe Place in 2014 just to mention a few items.

Thank you to all of the agencies and staff who continue to some of the greatest work with youth and families who are struggling and in need of safety, attention and services. The difference you make is vitally important and life changing!

President/CEO

Laurie Jackson

Mission

Safe Place provides access to immediate help and supportive resources for all young people in crisis through a network of sites sustained by qualified agencies, trained volunteers and businesses.

Safe Place will be universally recognized and used by youth who need immediate help and safety.

Vision

Staff

Laurie Jackson
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Sherry Casey
Susan Harmon
Tammy Hopper
Isabel Gomez
TC Cassidy
Mark Wolf
Elizabeth Smith
Danielle White
Stacy Meadows
Tella Jones
Jessi Gillis
Eric Tadatada
Kim Frierson

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Youth In Need
St. Charles, MO

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Family & Children's Service
Nashville, TN

Jim Pearce
CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services
Gainesville, FL

Michelle Sahagun
Nevada Department of Child and Family Services
Reno, NV

Doug Watson
Bacardi USA
Pinecrest, FL

Gayle Watts
Children's Aid Society
Birmingham, AL

New Board of Directors members in bold.

NEWS & UPDATES



Safe Place in Everett, Washington

In June, Cocoon House launched the Safe Place program in Snohomish County, Washington through a partnership with Everett Transit. Drivers on all buses displaying Safe Place signs are trained to respond to help

teens in need. Everett Transit is currently the only Safe Place site partner but Cocoon House plans to expand the program to include libraries and other youth-friendly locations. Cocoon House is the second agency in the state to operate Safe Place. Youth-Care currently operates the program in Seattle.

Safe Place: Real Kids. Real Stories.

Tyler, 17, was having difficulty getting along with his military father and decided that couch surfing would be a better option. He eventually found his way to his mother's home, a woman whom he had met very few times in his life. When that situation exploded, he grabbed his bags and started walking down a busy, urban street. A community supporter saw Tyler, talked to him about his situation and directed him to a nearby Safe Place location. He entered the

STARRY Emergency Shelter that night and five days later was transferred to a private transitional living program. He is now very excited to get on track with his goals and move towards a successful future.

Story submitted by STARRY/SAFE in Round Rock, Texas



National Safe Place to be featured in upcoming public television segment

National Safe Place recently partnered with a production company to create a five-minute documentary piece that will be distributed to public television stations nationwide. The project, titled Breakthroughs, was shot in June at The Children's Home Society of Florida campus in West Palm Beach, Florida. The educational piece details the Safe Place program with key interviews, including a youth testimonial, and narration. The production company will also produce and distribute a 30-second commercial segment that will be broadcast in primetime. This project would not have been possible without generous support from CSX.

NSP Honors...

- QuikTrip Corporation supported National Safe Place with a recent donation of \$75,000. QuikTrip is a valuable partner in National Safe Place's mission to provide access to immediate help and supportive resources for youth in crisis. National Safe Place is thankful for their ongoing commitment and support.
- This year, National Safe Place held the very first NSP Video Contest! Agencies and individuals were encouraged to submit videos that highlight what Safe Place means to their community. The videos were uploaded to an app hosted on the National Safe Place Facebook page and the top two videos were selected by a panel of judges. The top two videos were shared on the



National Safe Place Facebook page and the video that earned the most "likes" was declared the winner. National Safe Place is happy to recognize Fresno EOC Sanctuary Youth Services' submission, "Erica's Safe Place Story," as the winning video. Family Connection's video submission was a close second. Huge thanks to everyone who participated in the inaugural NSP Video Contest!



- National Safe Place is pleased to recognize the contributions of Sue Barton, who served as the Advisory Board Chair in 2011 and 2012. Sue's insight and passion helped drive the important work of the Advisory Board. National Safe Place and the Advisory Board are grateful for her leadership and look forward to her continued support as a member of the Advisory Board.

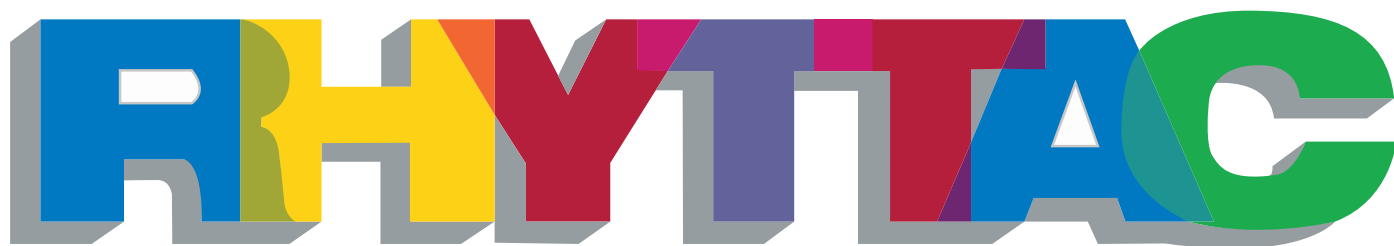


New Benefits for Licensed Safe Place Agencies

As a licensed Safe Place agency, staff and family members are eligible for special educational benefits offered through a unique partnership between National Safe Place and numerous traditional, non-profit universities and colleges. Along with fee waivers, benefits include special tuition pricing to high quality and accredited institutions providing certificates, Bachelor's and Master's degree programs online. Please visit www.allcampus.com/partnerships/safeplace/.



Sprint will offer a discount for all agencies utilizing Sprint as their mobile carrier. This 10% discount will also apply to employees on personal accounts as long as they are employees of a licensed Safe Place agency. For more details, please visit www.sprint.com/responsibility/ourcommunities/national_partnerships_programs/national-safe-place.html.



Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center

RHYTTACmosphere Review



Have you participated in an Ignite Clinic? Ignite Clinics are operated by using a model similar to the "ignite" model of group processing and learning. We don't pick the topic that we think is your greatest need – you do. We want to hear your struggles, what you have tried, what works and what hasn't. Many have used these clinics to improve specific services. How will you benefit from this clinic? Watch rhyttac.net for scheduled events near you.



Organizations across the country are doing critical work to support runaway and homeless youth. In this issue, we are pleased to share The Vermont Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs is the Grantee Spotlight! If you would like to learn more about VCRHYP or how to be featured, please visit us at www.rhyttac.net/spotlight.

THANK
you

We'd like to send a special Thank You to the following RHY Grantees for welcoming RHYTTAC (and your RHY colleagues from across the country) into your organization to host events! Thank you Comitis Crisis Center in Aurora, Colorado, The Center for Youth in Rochester, New York, Wind Youth Services in Sacramento, California, Synergy Services, Inc. in Parkville, Missouri and Youth in Need in St. Charles, Missouri!

Upcoming Events

The National RHY Grantees Conference will be held November 12 – 14 in Atlanta, Georgia. All RHY Grantees are encouraged to send a minimum of one participant. You may visit www.rhyttac.net for details. We look forward to seeing you there!

"When we get, we give"

2013 National
Runaway and Homeless Youth
Grantees Conference

November 12 - 14, 2013
Atlanta, Georgia

when we learn, we ..."

Connect with Us

We want to hear from you! We are available at rhyttac.net and info@rhyttac.net. You can engage with our team and other grantees through:



facebook.com/rhyttac



[@rhyttac](https://twitter.com/rhyttac)



[/watchrhyttac](https://youtube.com/watchrhyttac)



Available to RHY Grantees at rhyttac.net

Operated by





National Safe Place, Inc.
2429 Crittenden Drive
Louisville, KY 40217

November is National Runaway Prevention Month



Join the National Runaway Safeline and other prominent organizations to support NRPM.

2013 NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH PARTNERS:

American Association of School Administrators
Boys and Girls Clubs of America
Girls Inc.
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth
National Association of Police Organizations
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Resource Officers
National Center for Homeless Education
National Clearinghouse on Youth and Families
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National Network for Youth
National Resource Center for Youth Services
National Safe Place
School Social Workers Association of America

THIS NOVEMBER, SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH BY WEARING A GREEN LIGHT LAPEL PIN THROUGHOUT THE MONTH AND BY PARTICIPATING IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH (NRPM) ACTIVITIES:



SOCIAL MEDIA DAY OF ACTION GREEN SOCK DAY GREEN LIGHT PROJECT

Visit www.1800RUNAWAY.org to download the full 30-day NRPM Activity calendar and for more information on how to raise awareness in your community.