

# the Connection

spring 2011



## National Safe Place Week Success!



Tulsa, OK

National Safe Place was celebrated nationwide the week of March 21-26, 2011. This week brings public awareness to Safe Place; a program which has helped over 250,000 young people in crisis since the program was developed by the YMCA in Louisville, KY in 1983.

The awareness of NSP week and agency events attracted local media attention for over 20 programs through radio, print publications, and television networks (PSA). Nearly 20 cities received Mayoral Proclamations designating the week as National Safe Place Week. Governor of Arizona, Jan Brewer, issued a Governor's Proclamation for the state declaring it National Safe Place Week.

Events such as "Don't Get Boxed In" were coordinated in multiple states to raise awareness about the dangers faced by runaway or homeless youth. The "Don't Get Boxed In" campaigns featured graffiti-covered cardboard boxes listing alarming statistics about teen homelessness and shared NSP "TXT 4 HELP" information. Programs took the opportunity during the week to thank Safe Place volunteers and businesses that are designated as Safe Place sites for their support of the program, agency and youth in their community. Many programs delivered cookies, cupcakes, and thank you notes to show appreciation of their partnership.

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## Sprint and Gheens Foundations support TXT 4 HELP

National Safe Place is pleased to announce the support of the Sprint Foundation and the Gheens Foundation for the TXT 4 HELP. Generous gifts of \$50,000 from the Sprint Foundation and \$15,000 from the Gheens Foundation will be used to launch the next phase of the agency's TXT 4 HELP project. Launching this spring, the live texting initiative will allow young people in need of assistance to text NSP and receive assistance from a professional counselor. Laurie

Jackson, Executive Director for NSP says "this program will be a real asset for young people. It will allow youth to receive assistance in a format they are very comfortable with and that they use daily." Youth will still be able to text and receive the address of the closest Safe Place location but they can now get immediate assistance if needed. Stay tuned for information about this exciting new program.





## Laurie's Corner

It is springtime, finally! After a difficult winter, it is time for the sun and flowers and growing gardens, a time to be busy with growth and renewal. At National Safe Place we have moved from a busy winter into

a very busy spring. As you will read about in this issue NSP held a very successful National Safe Place week in March. Many member agencies have shared their exciting stories and pictures from this week. This is an event that continues to grow each and every year. It is a great opportunity to share Safe Place information with youth and adults across the country.

In addition to NSP Week, April and springtime brought with it National Child Abuse Prevention month. While the month of April puts a spotlight on this issue, it is important to remember that there are many young people who end up in crisis and/or homeless due to abuse or neglect throughout the year. This is just one of many reasons to continue to promote Safe Place and our message of help and safety for young people. During the last year, National Safe Place and our member agencies were able to pro-

vide over 18,000 Safe Place sites across the country where youth could go to access safety. We anticipate that this number will continue to grow during this year as we continue to recruit additional local and national partners. NSP has been providing texting assistance through the TXT 4 HELP project for over a year. This project has been very successful. We are anticipating taking this project to the next level during the next several months. It is a very exciting time and we will be working very diligently to keep you all posted on this initiative.

Finally, I want to say how very much the staff here at National Safe Place respect and appreciate all of our member agencies and our Safe Place sites. It is through their dedication and hard work that over 800,000 young people were informed about the Safe Place message last year. These programs provided assistance to 13,000 youth and helped them be safe and access the services they needed to move forward in their life.

*Laurie Jackson*

## National Safe Place

**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.

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

## Board of Directors

**Howard "Skip" Elliott, Board Chair**  
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Tulsa, OK

# NSP.WEEK Activities



*Chelle-Omaha, NE*

Including National Safe Place week, so far this year, outreach efforts reached 322,545 youth through Safe Place presentations, community events, receiving Safe Place cards, TXT 4 Help cards, bracelets, pen, stickers, etc. Overall, 54 programs in 25 different states coordinated activities for the week.

NSP wishes to thank all the dedicated staff and volunteers that helped pull off a wonderful week of activities and bring awareness to your community.



*Louisville, KY*



*Boxed in - Saginaw, AL*



*Don't Get Boxed In Campaign  
Mt Vernon, WA*



*Des Moines, IA*

## NSP Honors...

- National Safe Place is pleased to recognize the services of Bob Callander. Mr. Callander recently resigned from the National Safe Place Board of Directors after serving for over 18 years. Bob states "National Safe Place is in very good hands," and he believes the board will continue to work hard in the journey "to continue to help teens find a safe place in their troubled lives." Bob's talent and contribution will be missed. National Safe Place and the Board of Directors are grateful for his service.
- Southwest Airlines supported National Safe Place with a donation of \$25,000. The Annual National Safe Place HEROS Award is sponsored by Southwest Airlines. This award is given every year to a person who individuals who have made extraordinary contributions nationally to the services provided to at-risk youth. Southwest Airlines also gifted NSP with several airline tickets.



- Karen Bonnewell served as the Safe Place Coordinator for Haven House Inc., in Raleigh, North Carolina for the last several years. Karen has been an avid supporter of Safe Place and helped to promote and grow Safe Place not only in her community but across the country. Ms. Bonnewell, retired from her position this spring. She will definitely be missed. NSP wishes her nothing but the best on her next journey.
- Mark Guffre serves as a wonderful volunteer and board member for National Safe Place. He shares his volunteer hours with his employer, UPS. He was recently selected as one of 10 individuals from UPS whose volunteer service was recognized by the company. As a result, they graciously made a \$7,500 donation in Mark's name to National Safe Place. Thanks to Mark and to UPS.



*Karen's last day*



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## NSP and Safe Place Chicago Hold Fundraiser

Lumen Chicago was the location of the first annual fundraiser to benefit both National Safe Place and Safe Place Chicago. Held on March 16th, the event was the idea of Joe Diamond, NSP Board Member and Safe Place Chicago volunteer. Both organizations wish to thank our sponsors Southwest Airlines, White Castle, Svedka Vodka, Rub BBQ, Jordan's Food of Distinction and Lumen Chicago. The evening culminated with entertainment provided by the break dance group Connect Force. The troupe is made of youth members from Alter-

natives Inc., a local program in Chicago serving youth who have experienced difficulties in their life. The event was a wonderful success. Laurie Jackson Executive Director of NSP said, "This was a fabulous first time event. It really brought individuals together to learn more about Safe Place in Chicago, a program of the Youth Network Council and National Safe Place which works to bring places of safety to youth across the county." A raffle was held for Southwest Airline tickets and proceeds from the event were divided evenly between the two agencies.