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nationalsafeplace.org

The Connection

Spring 2013

The National Safe Place Newsletter

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

2013



The Union City Fire Department in Union City, Ga. along with staff from The Children's Village at Christian City.

National Safe Place (NSP) Week was celebrated nationwide on March 17-23, 2013. The annual week highlights the Safe Place program, which has helped more than 285,000 youth in crisis since it was founded in 1983. This year, NSP partnered with the Transit Authority of River City (TARC) in Louisville to wrap a public bus in a Safe Place advertisement. The bus wrap, which displays a very large Safe Place logo, was unveiled during NSP Week and will be displayed in Louisville for one year. NSP also launched a brand new mobile website and a Safe Place video contest for youth.

Safe Place coordinators worked diligently to raise awareness about Safe Place and youth safety during NSP Week. Agencies secured more than 70 print,

broadcast, and online news stories and nearly 17 cities and counties proclaimed NSP Week.

Agencies held various awareness events including Safe Place dances for youth, public Safe Place displays, volunteer and site appreciation luncheons, Safe Place rallies, poster and art contests, school presentations, new Safe Place site launches, and more. Many agencies took the opportunity to thank volunteers and sites that support the program. Overall, 30 agencies in 21 states participated in NSP Week.

NSP would like to thank all of the dedicated staff and volunteers that worked hard to share information about Safe Place and raise awareness about youth safety.

Laurie's Corner



Spring has arrived and it is glorious. The trees are budding, the flowers are beginning to bloom, the days are becoming longer and the growing season is in full swing. That is also the case here at National Safe Place. This season and this year National Safe Place is celebrating 30 years of growing the Safe Place program in communities and states across the nation. Who could have imagined the program created so long ago in one community would grow to serve more than 288,390 youth and educate more than ten million youth and just as many adults about the perils of being a youth on the street and the options available to them through this program? I encourage everyone to not only "like" Safe Place on Facebook but share your Safe Place success stories there as well.

At NSP, our team is also growing. With the addition of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) our staff has increased significantly. National Safe Place is pleased with the new additions, who include individuals known in the field as well as new faces. Visit RHYTTAC.net to learn more about our new team members. You can also learn and share by connecting with RHYTTAC on Facebook at Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center.

This spring has also been about the transition of some of our Board of Directors and Advisory Board members. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the magnificent leadership of Skip Elliott from CSX, who served as the Board Chair for the last two years. Advisory Board Chair Sue Barton will also be stepping down from her position, having completed her tenure. Both of these talented individuals have provided excellent guidance and direction for the organization

and we look forward to their continued journey with National Safe Place.

Finally, I congratulate all of our Safe Place organizations and communities for yet another wonderfully successful National Safe Place Week. Our office saw a tremendous increase in the celebrations, recognitions and public awareness of Safe Place during this year's event. Safe Place is not just a "program," it is a community-wide effort to provide a safety net to young people who find themselves in a situation requiring assistance. National Safe Place has worked to promote safety and connection for youth in crisis for 30 years and counting. We will continue to grow more Safe Place communities and cultivate those already in place, making Safe Place the symbol of safety and connection for all youth.

Laurie Jackson
Executive Director

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 – Executive Director

Hillary Bond – Safe Place
(newsletter editor)

Robin Donaldson – Safe Place/RHYTTAC

Sherry Casey – Safe Place

Susan Harmon – Safe Place

TC Cassidy – RHYTTAC

Mark Wolf – RHYTTAC

Elizabeth Smith – RHYTTAC

Danielle White – RHYTTAC

Stacy Meadows – RHYTTAC

Tella Jones – RHYTTAC

Board of Directors

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Alloy, Inc.
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Gina Digioia
Alloy, Inc.
New York, NY

Howard "Skip" Elliott
CSX
Jacksonville, FL

Debra Friggel
QuikTrip Corporation
Tulsa, OK

Chris Hackett
New York, NY

Tom Patania
Youth Crisis Center
Jacksonville, FL

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

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK 2013



TARC bus in Louisville, Ky. displays an advertisement to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Safe Place.



Mike Johnson, Salt Lake County Youth Services Safe Place Coordinator, poses with other staff members during a volunteer appreciation event.



Ahada Jones, Jonathan's Place Safe Place Coordinator, delivers Safe Place balloons and thank you cards to all QuikTrip locations in Dallas County, Texas.



Nicole West, Safe Place Coordinator for North Texas Youth Connection, poses with the new Safe Place sign after receiving a NSP Week proclamation from the City of Sherman, Texas.



Sondra Jackson, Youth Services System, Inc. Outreach Specialist, receives a NSP Week proclamation from Wheeling, West Virginia Mayor McKenzie. Chief Larry Helmes of the Wheeling Fire Department is also pictured.



The Relatives, Inc. in Charlotte, North Carolina held a "Celebration & Stroll" event during NSP Week. Participants enjoyed games, music, food, free give-aways, and a stroll through town in support of the agency and Safe Place.

Safe Place: Real Kids. Real Stories.



David, 15, was kicked out of his home and had run out of places to stay. He was tired, hungry, sick with the flu, and in desperate need of help. His girlfriend told him about Safe Place and he decided to give it a try. After visiting a QuikTrip store, David was met by a Safe Place volunteer who had a brief conversation with him about the issues he faced. They reviewed his options and determined that placement in the local youth emergency shelter was best. At the shelter, David met with a caseworker and counselor who helped develop a plan to better meet his needs. His parents agreed to engage in family counseling with David and each has learned to communicate better with one another.



Has Safe Place impacted youth in your community? Tell us about it! In celebration of Safe Place's 30th anniversary, local programs across the country are encouraged to partner with teens to create an original video highlighting the impact of Safe Place. This contest will showcase Safe Place as a national outreach program for youth in crisis and the winning video will serve as a National Safe Place public service announcement. Please visit facebook.com/natlsafeplace to learn more.

New Mobile Website

National Safe Place now has a mobile website, which allows users to see an optimized version of our website ideal for usage on any phone with a browser installed. Check it out on your phone or computer at nationalsafeplace.org/mobile.



HEROES for Youth Award Nominations

now OPEN!

It is awards season at National Safe Place! We are now accepting nominations for the 2013 HEROES for Youth Award presented by National Safe Place and Southwest Airlines. Please visit nationalsafeplace.org to nominate an individual who has made extraordinary contributions nationally to the services provided to at-risk youth. Nominations for the HEROES for Youth Award are due by July 1, 2013.



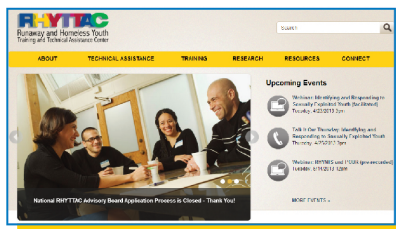
Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center

RHYTTACmosphere Review



Organizations across the country are doing critical work to support runaway and homeless youth. We're pleased to have featured Family Connection, Inc. in our Grantee Spotlight. If you would like to learn more about Family Connection or how to be featured, please visit us at www.rhyttac.net/spotlight.

There have been some great additions to the RHYTTAC Team! We'd like to welcome new members Danielle White as our new Executive Assistant, Stacy Meadows as our new Evidence Based Practice/Outcome Specialist, Tella Jones as our new Logistics Specialist. We are not only delighted to have them on our team, but also excited to offer their talents to you! (Pictured left to right: Stacy, Tella, Danielle)



We are proud to have launched our new website www.rhyttac.net! [rhyttac.net](http://www.rhyttac.net) offers more information about RHYTTAC, important training and event dates, needed resources, and more! See you on our site soon!

Upcoming Events



Facilitated and Recorded Webinars are routinely available. Please visit our events calendar on rhyttac.net for details and to access eLearning.



Join us for "Talk It Out Thursdays"! These conference calls are opportunities for staff from RHY programs to join in for an hour long discussion regarding a variety of topics. We look forward to "Talking it out" on Thursdays at 3:00pm Eastern Time.



The TLP and MGH Grantees meeting will immediately precede the National Pathways to Adulthood Conference on the morning of Wednesday, August 7, 2013 in Baltimore, MD. Visit us at rhyttac.net for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

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](http://watchrhyttac)



Available to RHY Grantees at rhyttac.net



Operated by



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

National Safe Place Honors...



National Safe Place is pleased to recognize the contributions of CSX's Howard "Skip" Elliott, who has served as Chairman of the National Safe Place Board of Directors for the past two years. Elliott's talent and insight led the organization in new and exciting directions, including the rebranding of the Safe Place logo. Elliott is truly a visionary and advocate for the organization and for youth and families in need. National Safe Place and the Board of Directors are grateful for his leadership and look forward to his continued support as a member of the Board of Directors.



CSX Corporation and Sprint Foundation supported National Safe Place with recent donations of \$225,000 and \$30,000 respectively. CSX and Sprint are valuable partners in National Safe Place's mission to provide access to immediate help and supportive resources for all young people in crisis. National Safe Place is thankful for their ongoing commitment and support.



National Safe Place is also pleased to recognize Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky for their recent contribution of \$5,000. This gift will allow National Safe Place to produce a brand new Safe Place youth presentation video and increase education and outreach efforts nationally.