



The

Connection

Spring 2014

The National Safe Place Newsletter

Inside this issue

- 1 National Safe Place Week Celebrated in Communities Across the Country
- 2 Laurie's Corner
- 3 News & Updates
NSP Week in Photos
- 4 NSP Honors...
NSP Week in Photos
- 5 RHYTTACmosphere
- 6 2014 National Conference

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK CELEBRATED IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Centerton, Arkansas Mayor Bill Edwards issues a NSP Week proclamation and celebrates with staff and supporters at Youth Bridge, Inc.

National Safe Place (NSP) Week was celebrated nationwide on March 16-22, 2014. The annual week highlights the Safe Place program, which has helped more than 300,000 youth since it began in 1983.

This year, 30 licensed agencies in 18 states held activities and events to raise awareness of Safe Place and recognize community partners that support the program. Agencies conducted Safe Place walks and rallies, photo and art contests, community presentations, Safe Place site appreciation events, volunteer luncheons, news interviews, NSP Week proclamation readings, and more.

Joe Martinez, with the Safe Place program in Fresno, California, helped coordinate several successful events and activities in his community during NSP Week. "Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Youth Services was pleased to

stand together with our community, local businesses and volunteers to celebrate National Safe Place Week," Martinez said. "We increased awareness about issues facing youth and the important role we have in opening doors and offering help for young people. Our local media, Safe Place site partners, and local business sponsors deserve a lot of recognition for promoting the Safe Place message."

National Safe Place tracked more than 75 print, broadcast, and online news stories about Safe Place during the week. In addition, 20 cities and counties proclaimed NSP Week. Indiana Governor Mike Pence issued a proclamation for the state.

National Safe Place sincerely thanks all the dedicated staff and volunteers who helped celebrate and raise awareness of Safe Place during NSP Week 2014.

Laurie's Corner



Springtime is finally here after what seemed to be a very long winter. National Safe Place has moved from a busy winter to what will surely be an exciting Spring. As you will read in this edition, National Safe Place Week was one of the most successful weeks ever! Licensed agencies shared the Safe Place message with their communities through mayoral and state proclamations, volunteer celebrations, site recognitions, rallies and awareness concerts during the week of March 16-22. We are grateful to all who helped organize and implement awareness activities during the week. It is because of these great efforts that more youth and adults are educated about Safe Place and other supportive resources.

We invite and encourage you to take the opportunity to renew your commitment to Safe Place and the organization by making a contribution to the National Safe Place Network during our annual campaign. By making a contribution, you will help expand the national network of Safe Places for youth. Contributions may be mailed or given online at our website, www.nationalsafeplace.org. Please help us in our ongoing effort to increase the awareness and availability of Safe Place by becoming an active, supporting partner along with our corporate sponsors CSX, QuikTrip and the GHEENS Foundation. Your support makes all the difference; there is no gift too small.

Lastly, this year is the 40th anniversary of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA). This legislation has provided vital services to runaway and homeless youth in the U.S. In fact, the

RHYA helped fund the program that launched Safe Place in 1983. It is inspiring to know so many youth have been helped and have experienced personal success as a result of both the RHYA legislation and Safe Place. I encourage your ongoing support of continued programs for runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis.

Laurie Jackson

President / CEO

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

Board of Directors

Michael Fitz
Sprint
Leesburg, VA

J. Barry Barker
TARC
Louisville, KY

Joe Diamond
Alloy, Inc.
Chicago, IL

Howard "Skip" Elliott
CSX
Jacksonville, FL

Adam Jonas
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New York, NY

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Health Services
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Child and Family Services
Reno, NV

Gary Colen
AMP Agency
Boston, MA

Mark Giuffre
UPS
New York, NY

Janet Ramey
Brown Smith Wallace
St. Louis, MO

New Board of Directors members in bold.

News & Updates



Safe Place: Real Kids. Real Stories.

McKenzie, 16, was struggling with verbal abuse from her parents. One evening, her adult sister decided it was time to help McKenzie escape from the turmoil at home. McKenzie's sister took her to the local fire department and asked for help. Shortly after arriving at the Safe Place location, a volunteer arrived and McKenzie determined that residential and counseling services were necessary. It was reassuring to everyone at the youth shelter that McKenzie had an advocate, her big sister, willing to help guide her to safety. Eventually, the entire family received the counseling and support they needed at the time. McKenzie now understands that she can always turn to Safe Place again, if necessary.



South Bend Regional Airport a Safe Place for youth

During National Safe Place Week, Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County welcomed their most recent Safe Place location: The South Bend Regional Airport. The Indiana airport is the third in the nation to be involved as a Safe Place location for youth.

HEROES for Youth Award Nominations Now Open!

We are now accepting nominations for the 2014 HEROES for Youth Award presented by National Safe Place Network. Please visit nationalsafeplace.org to nominate a friend or colleague who has made extraordinary contributions to the services provided to at-risk youth. Nominations for the HEROES for Youth Award are due by July 1, 2014.

Is your company or organization interested in sponsoring the HEROES for Youth Award? If so, please contact Laurie Jackson, National Safe Place President/CEO, at 502.635.3660 or ljackson@nationalsafeplace.org.

NSP Week 2014 in Photos



Fresno, California - Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Youth Services welcomed Big Brothers Big Sisters as the 269th Safe Place site



Union City, Georgia - Morgan Tyler with Children's Village at Christian City thanked a QuikTrip employee for the store's participation as a Safe Place location

NSP Honors...

Howard “Skip” Elliott

Vice President of Public Safety and Environment for CSX Transportation

National Safe Place is pleased to recognize the dedicated contributions of Skip Elliott, who recently resigned from the Board of Directors after six years of service, including two years as Board Chairman. Elliott’s talent and insight helped lead National Safe Place in exciting directions, including the rebranding of the Safe Place logo. He is truly a visionary and advocate for youth and families in need. National Safe Place and the Board of Directors are grateful for his leadership and wish him nothing but the very best.



J. Barry Barker

Recognized as the 2013 NSP Volunteer of the Year

As the Executive Director of the Transit Authority of River City (TARC), Barker is instrumental in Safe Place program expansion. He has served on the National Safe Place Board of Directors since 2007 and been instrumental in program growth within the public transportation industry. His leadership and support has helped National Safe Place develop over 65 transit companies as partners in the Safe Place effort. National Safe Place salutes Barker for his ongoing commitment to strengthening communities, youth and families. He is an integral thread in the national safety net for youth.

CSX Contribution



CSX Corporation supported National Safe Place with a donation of \$225,000 to fund Safe Place expansion and awareness projects. CSX is a valuable partner in National Safe Place’s mission to provide immediate help and safety for all youth in crisis. National Safe Place is thankful for CSX’s ongoing commitment and support.

NSP Week 2014 in Photos



Jeffersonville, Indiana - Clark County Youth Services thanked their Safe Place sites for supporting youth



Rochester, New York – Center for Youth Executive Director Elaine Spauld and community partners held a NSP Week press conference at Tops Friendly Markets, which serves as a Safe Place location.



Dallas, Texas – Staff at Jonathan’s Place helped Mayor Mike Rawlings proclaim it NSP Week in Dallas.

Sponsored by:



Family and Youth Services Bureau

Upcoming Events



It's time for the **2014 RHY Grantees Conference Call for Presenters!** This year's conference will be held November 11-13 in Phoenix, Arizona. We will need over 50 workshop trainings of 90 minute duration. We are seeking workshops addressing pressing issues and cutting-edge practices that will be most helpful to a wide variety of grantees. You can download the application at www.rhyttac.net. The deadline for submitting proposals is May 15, 2014.



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 ET.

RHYTTACmosphere Review



Training of Trainers - Trauma Informed Care

RHY Grantees gathered together at Tumbleweed in Phoenix, AZ for a productive and fun 3 day TOT event which prepared them to return to their agencies and train staff and volunteers on the basic elements of trauma informed care (TIC) and the positive impact that TIC can have on program participants. Check out www.rhyttac.net for more upcoming TOT events!



Connect with Us

We want to hear from you! We are available at rhyttac.net, info@rhyttac.net and through the following community sites:



facebook.com/rhyttac



@rhyttac



/watchrhyttac



Available to RHY Grantees at rhyttac.net



Operated by

The *Connection*

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

focus 2014



"Walk a Mile in My Shoes"

October 1-3, 2014
Louisville, KY

Presented by:
National Safe Place Network



**Interested in exhibitor or sponsorship opportunities for this year's conference?
Please contact National Safe Place Network at 888-290-7233.**

To learn more about FOCUS 2014 – Walk a Mile in My Shoes, please visit nationalsafeplace.org.