

THE NSPN sider

THE NATIONAL SAFE PLACE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

FOCUS 2014 CONFERENCE: "WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES"



A group of participants engage in a powerful workshop session with author and speaker Dr. Christian Conte during the Focus 2014 Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.



Participants gather for a photo during a site visit to the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

On October 1-3, more than one hundred youth service professionals gathered in Louisville for National Safe Place Network's (NSPN) Focus 2014 Conference – "Walk a Mile in My Shoes," at The Brown Hotel. Attendees had the opportunity to network and discuss ideas of significance related to strengthening youth and family services.

"The Focus Conference offered great examples of evidence-based intervention strategies that I brought back with me in order to enhance Sea Haven's services," said Wendy Gore, Development Director at Sea Haven, Inc. in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. "The workshops and the keynote speakers were wonderful. I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet and learn from others doing this important, necessary work."

In addition to conference workshops and seminars, major events included:

Opening Session and Keynote

The opening conference keynote was delivered by Justin Reed Early, author of STREET CHILD: A Memoir and public speaker who was homeless for much of his adolescent and teenage years. Justin also appeared in the 1984 Academy Award nominated documentary, *Streetwise*.

General Session and Keynote

Dr. Christian Conte, licensed professional counselor, nationally-certified psychologist, and Level V anger management specialist, delivered the general session keynote speech. Dr. Conte has over 16,000 hours of clinical counseling experience and is the founder of Yield Theory. He travels throughout the country to bring a message of compassion, peace and acceptance.

Focus 2014 was made possible with the support of NSPN's Board of Directors, Advisory Board and member agencies.

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LAURIE'S CORNER



Don't you just love when things are new? Whether an item, an idea, a relationship or a program, when something is new it is fresh, creative, fun and exciting. This is the case for National Safe Place Network (NSPN). Last summer our organization announced the creation of a few new things. The first is our new organizational brand image. As you may remember, NSPN is the product of the coming together of National Safe Place and Youth and Family Services Network. We are pleased to share the new visual that will be the mainstay for our network going forward. You can already see these changes on the cover and in the design of this newsletter. The second and perhaps even more notable change is the announcement of our new, creative NSPN membership packages. These packages provide something for each agency, whether the need is training, organizational development or professional development. Information about membership packages may be found in this newsletter and online at www.nspnetwork.org.

This fall has been a very busy and exciting time for NSPN. In early October, we hosted the Focus 2014 Conference which featured inspiring keynote speeches, networking opportunities, workshop sessions, and more. Participants heard from author and speaker Justin Reed Early, a former homeless youth who shared his successes and transition out of homelessness. At the end of October, we welcomed hundreds of National FFA volunteers for a service project which produced more than 2,300 outreach bags for runaway and homeless youth. In November, NSPN and the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) hosted the 2014 National RHY Grantees Conference in Phoenix. More than 700 participants took part in training sessions and exciting conference events, including a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) and a special screening of The Homestretch.

The past year has been incredible and we look forward to 2015, a new year in which we will continue to expand our services to assist youth and families. During this holiday season and always, all of us at NSPN send our most sincere appreciation for your commitment and support. We could not do this important work without you!

Happy holidays,

Laurie Jackson

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AND THE AWARD GOES TO

Year in and year out, youth service professionals, volunteers and community organizations work diligently to strengthen youth and families. NSPN recognized individuals, organizations and companies who have and continue to make a difference in the lives of youth.



Award recipients pose for a photo after the 2014 NSPN Awards ceremony held during the Focus 2014 Conference.

- **Corporate and Community Involvement Award:** Devon Energy, Oklahoma City, OK
- **Executive Leadership Award:** Keith Wallace, Central Texas Youth Service Bureau, Belton, TX
- **Helping Hands Award:** Steve Schoenbauer, volunteer for Bethany Crisis Center, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Duluth, MN
- **HEROES for Youth Award:** Pamela A. Johnson (1953-2014)
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Bonnie Strycker, Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County, South Bend, IN
- **Model Program Award:** Clark County Youth Shelter and Family Services, Jeffersonville, IN
- **Safe Place Coordinator of the Year:** Angie Freeny, Payne County Youth Services, Stillwater, OK
- **Safe Place Site Excellence Award:** Valley Metro, Phoenix, AZ

NSPN HONORS

Doug Watson

NSPN is pleased to recognize the contributions of Doug Watson, who recently resigned from the Board of Directors after one year of service. NSPN and the Board of Directors are grateful for his participation.

Pat Holterman-Hommes

NSPN is excited to welcome Pat Holterman-Hommes to the Board of Directors. Pat is the President and CEO of Youth in Need, a nonprofit child and family services agency in St. Charles, Missouri. She has been involved with Youth in Need for many years, serving most recently as the Chief Program Officer. Pat has extensive expertise in the areas of adolescent development and family therapy, child abuse and neglect issues, positive youth development and organizational development.



Sprint

Sprint Foundation recently contributed \$30,000 to support the TXT 4 HELP program. Sprint is a valuable partner in NSPN's mission to ensure an effective system of response for all youth in crisis.



Family and Youth Services Bureau

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) provided supplemental funding for the development of toolkits and resources for runaway and homeless youth grantee agencies. RHYTTAC will work with grantees around capacity-building and other sustainability issues to help agencies build their programs so they are less reliant on federal funds.

UPS and the Louisville Metro Council Neighborhood Development Fund



NSPN received generous support for the 2014 Focus Conference from UPS and the Louisville Metro Council Neighborhood Development Fund. The award from UPS totaled \$5,000 for general support of Focus, including a networking breakfast and awards luncheon. NSPN received \$3,000 from the Metro Council Neighborhood Development Fund, which supported printing the Focus Conference program and signs, bus transportation to three site visits (Muhammad Ali Center, Louisville YMCA Safe Place Services, and TARC Headquarters), admission to the Muhammad Ali Center and audio and visual support throughout the conference.



True Colors Fund

True Colors Fund contributed \$5,000 to support the site visit to Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development during the 2014 National RHY Grantees Conference. True Colors Fund was founded by Cyndi Lauper to raise awareness

about and bring an end to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth homelessness, and to inspire everyone, especially straight people, to become active participants in the advancement of equality for all. NSPN and RHYTTAC greatly appreciate their kind gift.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND UPDATES

Membership Packages Available, Based on Agency Needs

Joining NSPN is easier than ever and agencies may choose the resources needed at a budget-friendly cost. An organization with the NSPN Base Membership will have the opportunity to participate in national sub-grant and data collection efforts and be kept up to date on youth and family service initiatives across a variety of research areas and federal initiatives. In addition, agencies may choose from three specific benefits packages related to specific needs:

Organizational Development	Training Center	Professional Development
Grant writing support, proposal review, discounted Executive search, mission/vision statement development, succession planning, executive support and more!	Subscriptions to online training center, discounted site-based training, participation in Training of Trainers sessions, training plan consultations and more!	Continuing education units (CEUs) for staff training completed through NSPN, professional coaching for middle managers, personalized development plans, innovation circles and more!

To learn more about NSPN membership and pricing information, please visit www.nspnetwork.org/membership.

Q&A with NSPN'S Director of Research, Education & Public Policy

Tell us about your responsibilities as the Director of Research, Education & Public Policy for NSPN.

I focus largely on membership services for NSPN. This means developing resources and providing training for members, organizing events, responding to technical assistance questions and growing membership. I also track children and youth policy at the federal level and stay up to speed on news and current research.

What do you wish other people knew about NSPN?

National Safe Place Network does so much to support agencies, from Licensed Safe Place agencies to RHY Grantees to NSPN members. I wish people understood the depth of what we do. We provide more than just tip sheets, webinars, and email updates. We work to make sure you are receiving exactly what you need, understanding that the same approach will not work for every agency. Many people don't realize we also offer assistance with grant reviews, board development, and succession planning, just to name a few things. We also provide networking opportunities that connect organizations from across the country.



Katie Carter, NSPN
Director of Research,
Education & Public Policy

To view the entire Q&A with Katie, please visit our blog, NSPNsights, at www.nspnetwork.wordpress.com.

SAFE PLACE NEWS AND UPDATES



Safe Place Week 2015

NSPN is excited to announce March 15-21 as Safe Place Week. This annual week highlights the Safe Place program, which brings together organizations, businesses and volunteers to provide help and safety for youth in crisis. Safe Place Week is a time to raise awareness of the program as an immediate option for youth in need and to recognize the many valued Safe Place partners who strengthen the national safety net for youth.

Please visit www.nationalsafeplace.org to learn more about Safe Place Week and how you can get involved.

RHYTTAC NEWS AND UPDATES



Runaway and Homeless Youth
Training & Technical Assistance Center



2014 National RHY Grantees Conference

The National RHY Grantees Conference was held November 11 – 13 in Phoenix, Arizona. Over 700 participants attended the conference which featured 43 workshops, 3 half day pre-conference institutes, 3 keynote presentations and a federal presentation of critical issues. Participants celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the RHY Act while sharing expertise, experience, and a great time. If you were unable to attend the conference or would like to look back on the events and training sessions

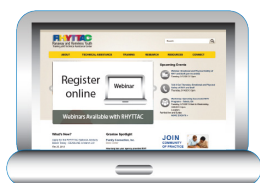
held, you may do so by visiting www.rhyttac.net/training/national-conference. On this page you will find links to the 2014 National RHY Grantees Conference Recap Video, Opening Plenary Welcome, General Federal Session, FYSB Mural Winner Presentation and ARTS Keynote, RHYA Anniversary Celebration Video, and the Conference Program. Thank you to all the RHY Grantees who attended the conference, left inspired, and are dedicated to serve RHY each and every day.



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF RHYTTAC

Training and Technical Assistance Tip

The Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) is preparing to release a new, free mobile app called “Suicide Safe,” that will encourage professional development. Designed especially for clinicians, “Suicide Safe” will also assist primary care providers in assessing risk, determining next steps, and making referrals for treatment and community resources. For more information, go to:
<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/dea33b>



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.



2429 Crittenden Drive, Louisville, KY 40217



WE ARE PROUD TO OPERATE



FYSB Family & Youth
Services Bureau

Runaway and Homeless
Youth Training & Technical
Assistance Center

Connect with Us!

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National Safe Place Network envisions a world where all youth are safe. It is our mission to ensure an effective system of response for youth in crisis through public and private partnerships at a local, state and national level.