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Funding Helps Advance Safe Place® in KY and Beyond

National Safe Place Network (NSPN) is honored to have received a grant from the Kentucky Colonels’ Good Works Program to improve the TXT 4 HELP initiative, a key part of the Safe Place program.

NSPN’s strategic plan calls for reaching additional communities so all youth in crisis have access to Safe Place, no matter where they live. The Kentucky Colonels grant will help NSPN fulfill that goal of expanding the capacity of TXT 4 HELP by migrating to a stand-alone platform.

Thanks to the Kentucky Colonels, NSPN will educate youth, starting in Kentucky, about TXT 4 HELP. Youth and those who volunteer, work, or care about them will know how to access resources through Safe Place and TXT 4 HELP. NSPN’s educational campaign will begin with existing Kentucky Safe Place programs and school-based youth service centers, providing them with Safe Place pocket guides and branded items like lanyards, pens/pencils, and water bottles, to help kids and educators remember how to get help.

Licensed Safe Place agencies can order updated educational and promotional materials on the Safe Place webstore.

NSPN to Launch Emerging Leadership Institute

NSPN’s Emerging Leadership Institute (ELI) is a six-week web-based event that provides an opportunity for emerging leaders of youth and family services organizations to enhance skills needed to ensure ongoing success. ELI is free for Professional Development members, $150 for all other members, and $300 for non-members. Registration is opening soon. Please visit www.nspnetwork.org/eli for more information.
This holiday season—and every day of the year—kids in crisis can get help 24 hours a day through National Safe Place Network.

Your generous support will touch the lives of thousands of children facing abuse or neglect at home, bullying at school, homelessness, or the many other reasons youth need safety.

Right now, National Safe Place Network needs your investment more than ever before to support core programs that help kids in crisis. **Your generous gift today will help provide:**

- Immediate access to safety, shelter and vital connections for over 1,000 youth each month,
- Instant connection to mental health professionals via text messaging 24/7 for all youth,
- Education throughout the year to hundreds of thousands of youth and adults about Safe Place, TXT 4 HELP and the important services available through NSPN; and
- An opportunity for youth to attend NSPN’s Youth Leadership Institute to improve leadership skills and affect change in local shelters, youth programs, communities, and NSPN’s own programs.

**Your gift of $25 or more right now will help advance these key outcomes,** making sure kids are connected with safe and caring adults. Because of you, NSPN makes sure no youth is left on the street wondering where to turn for help. With your contribution, we can make sure all youth have access to safety, support, and mental health services 24 hours a day.

Please send your gift today using the enclosed envelope or give online at [www.nspnetwork.org/give](http://www.nspnetwork.org/give). A gift from you will show young people they are truly not alone and there is a community of people who care. Together, we can make this holiday brighter for young people.

Thank you for strengthening the safety net for youth. May you and your loved ones share a warm and wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Laurie Jackson
President & CEO

P.S. A gift to NSPN in your favorite young person’s name makes a great holiday gift. If you give in someone’s honor, NSPN will also send a holiday card thanking your honoree for being the kind of person that inspired you to give!
What does it really mean to feel safe, to know at the end of the day there is a place to go where it’s warm and safe from the elements, where there are beverages, food, and individuals who are there for you? It’s comforting and brings with it not just peace of mind but overall peace. For many young people, that peace and feeling of safety are missing. They are absent from their current world. These are our youth, youth who are homeless, sleep on the streets, or find themselves in dangerous situations. These youth have a sense of uncertainty about where to turn and who to trust. I recently returned from a large gathering of professionals who work with youth in these very situations. They are professionals working to make a difference to help youth find safety and peace! It was a great experience and provided fuel for National Safe Place Network (NSPN) to continue our work. The NSPN team strives to increase the number of communities offering the Safe Place program, raise awareness of TXT 4 HELP, and enhance training provided to youth care professionals across the country. NSPN remains focused on the vision of creating a world where all youth are safe!

As you read this edition of the NSPNsider, I hope you’ll take notice of the work being done to continue to create and expand the safety net for youth, our youth, so they may also experience the peace that comes at the end of the day—where they can find shelter, food, and people who care. Additionally, I ask you to consider a gift to support NSPN. No matter how large or small, all contributions provide the gift of safety and connection for youth in need. Together, with your support, we can share peace and safety with the young people who need it most.

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NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK | MARCH 18-24

#NSPWeek2018
NSPN HONORS

Ramon Looby, Ferdinand Risco, and James Wallace

NSPN is pleased to announce Ramon Looby, Ferdinand Risco, and James Wallace as new members of the Board of Directors.

Ramon Looby is Senior Vice President and Public Policy Lead at Bank of America, where he is responsible for managing public policy strategy development and implementation on a regional basis. Prior to joining Bank of America, Ramon spent four years managing a diverse portfolio of policy issues for the Consumer Data Industry Association.

Ferdinand Risco is Assistant Executive Director at Transit Authority of River City (TARC), providing leadership and direction for all operations of the Louisville, Kentucky, transit system, which carries nearly 15 million passengers annually. Before he joined TARC, Ferdinand led the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA).

James Wallace is Vice President of Enrollment Services for All Campus, where he leads the Enrollment team to drive online student growth at various state and private universities. Prior to joining All Campus, James served as Associate Vice President of Online Admissions for TCS Education System.

Carl Gerhardstein and Joe Diamond

Carl Gerhardstein and Joe Diamond are two dedicated professionals who recently completed their terms of service on the NSPN Board of Directors. NSPN and the Board of Directors are grateful for their collective expertise, guidance, and commitment to helping advance the organization’s mission.

John Sherman

John Sherman completed his term of service on the NSPN Advisory Board. John joined the Advisory Board in 2011 and served as the most recent Advisory Board Chair. He is a servant leader and his passion for youth services is evident. NSPN is grateful for John's service on the Advisory Board and wishes him continued success.
Now Accepting Nominations for NSPN Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2018 NSPN Awards. Youth service professionals, volunteers, and community organizations constantly work to strengthen youth and families in communities across the country. NSPN is honored to recognize those making a difference in the lives of youth and families.

Community Involvement Award   Lifetime Achievement Award
Executive Leadership Award   Model Program Award
Helping Hands Volunteer Award   Safe Place Coordinator Of The Year
HEROES for Youth Award

Visit www.nspnetwork.org to learn more and nominate a deserving candidate!

NSPN’s National Youth Advisory Board Collaboration Committee

Earlier this year, NSPN launched the National Youth Advisory Board Collaboration Committee (YCC) to provide an opportunity for youth serving on local agency advisory boards to come together to make a national impact. So far this year, the committee has shared feedback on its preferred means of digital interaction and methods of information sharing, informed federal runaway and homeless youth (RHY) partners about intake processes, and offered thoughts about the youth empowerment track at Focus 2018.

NSPN members, licensed Safe Place agencies, and RHY grantees are invited to register youth advisory board members to join the YCC. Learn more and sign up to participate at www.nspnetwork.org/ycc.

Focus 2018 | Louisville, KY | July 18-20

NSPN’s national conference provides opportunities for youth and youth service professionals to network with participants from across the country to share ideas, experiences, and knowledge.

The theme, Heart of the Matter, highlights the reasons our work is important. It also highlights the launch of the NSPN campaign to provide a digital canvas for youth to share their stories through art.

Conference Tracks:
- Organizational Development
- Professional Development
- Training
- Safe Place
- NEW! Youth Empowerment

Pre-conference Institutes:
- Youth Thrive*
- Mental Health First Aid *
- Safe Place Basics
- Youth Empowerment
- *certification opportunity

Learn more at www.nspnetwork.org.
NSPN Participates in Hanes for Good Sock Drive

Socks and underwear are often the most requested items by people experiencing homelessness, as they are much needed items that help provide warmth and protection. Hanes wants to leverage this connection to help even more people in need. Hanes has expanded the Hanes for Good program and selected National Safe Place Network (NSPN) as a partner agency, with the goal of developing a long-term partnership. Thanks to Hanes, NSPN will provide 2,500 socks and 500 pairs of underwear for youth in crisis, at the time they are needed the most. NSPN will distribute them to the over 130 licensed Safe Place agencies serving youth across the United States.

“We are grateful to Hanes for leading the sock drive and recognizing the value of investing in our young people,” said Laurie Jackson, NSPN’s President and CEO. “A clean pair of socks can have a tremendous impact on youth experiencing homelessness or who have run away and are an essential part of outreach and basic care for youth in crisis.”

Read more about the partnership at www.hanes.com/sockdrive.

Continued Safe Place Program Expansion in Three States

NSPN has partnered with three youth and family service organizations in New York, Vermont, and Colorado to launch new Safe Place programs. Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency will coordinate Safe Place services in Utica, New York; Essex CHIPS will manage the program in Essex Junction, Vermont; and Urban Peak will oversee program operations in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

“Not only does Safe Place show our young people that they are valued and supported by their community, but the program also strengthens engagement for all community members, businesses, and organizations,” said Aubrey Robinson, Youth Services Coordinator for Essex CHIPS.

Safe Place Billboard Campaign in Atlanta

Recent visitors to Atlanta, Georgia, may have spotted one of the 45 eye-catching Safe Place billboards around town. Christian City, the licensed Safe Place agency in Union City, Georgia, received grant funding to support an outdoor billboard campaign in an effort to connect with runaway and homeless youth. The billboards are displayed in the west and south sides of downtown Atlanta. The agency established a new phone number to track phone calls prompted by the billboards and has already seen an increase in calls and visits to Safe Place sites.
NSPN Selected to Operate RHYTTAC for the Next Three Years

After a competitive grant writing period, NSPN is proud to announce its selection by Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) to continue services to runaway and homeless youth (RHY) grantees for the next three years through the operation of Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC). NSPN is committed to providing up-to-date promising practices to help support youth organizations across the country as they work to provide safety and permanency and to improve the social and emotional well-being of runaway, homeless, and street youth. NSPN’s dedication to FYSB and RHY grantees will foster capacity building that will result in continued enhancement in services for youth and families.

2017 National RHY Grantees Training

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) recently hosted the 2017 National Runaway and Homeless Youth Grantees Training in Kansas City, Missouri. The National Training took place November 14-16, 2017, and included more than 45 workshops, two topical institutes, three keynote sessions, a general federal session, site visits to two RHY grantee agencies, poster presentations, and a reception featuring barbecue and karaoke.

Over 650 grantees from all 10 federal regions attended the National Training. To view more photos from the event, please visit RHYTTAC’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RHYTTAC. The PowerPoint presentations can be accessed at www.rhyttac.net/training-app (click on agenda and scroll to the presentations).
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.