

THE NSPN sider

THE NATIONAL SAFE PLACE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Safe Place® Celebrates 35 Years



Former Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala visited YMCA Safe Place Services in the early 1990s. Pictured from left to right: Susan Harmon, Sandy Bowen, Secretary Shalala, Kevin Connelly, and Nancy Beck.



Current and former staff of YMCA Safe Place Services and National Safe Place Network celebrate the unveiling of the updated Safe Place logo during a 2012 press conference at a Louisville, Kentucky, fire station.

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This year marks a milestone for National Safe Place Network (NSPN) as it marks the 35th anniversary of Safe Place. The program began in 1983 as a local outreach program of the YMCA Shelter House in Louisville, Kentucky, and just three years later it expanded to a national program.

Meaningful and historic moments have been documented throughout the years, and many people have contributed to Safe Place's growth and success. Program accomplishments did not come by accident but by the dedicated work of individuals, organizations, and corporations that committed their time, energy, and resources to help young people. They developed the Safe Place concept, supported growth and development, funded the expansion, sustained the efforts, and challenged the status quo—all while maintaining the desire and mission of connecting youth in crisis to help and needed services.

Safe Place is a key driver of NSPN's mission to ensure an effective system of response for youth in crisis through local, state, and national partnerships. Even as the world changes rapidly, there is still a need for Safe Place. NSPN will continue to work with communities for many years to come to provide young people access to immediate help whenever and wherever they need it.

To learn more and view Safe Place photos from the past 35 years, please visit www.nationalsafeplace.org/celebrating-35-years.

LAURIE'S CORNER



Thirty-five years is a long time. It's interesting to think about how much has changed over the last 35 years—computers, cell phones, even the number of options available now to watch a movie! This year, the Safe Place program is celebrating 35 years of providing help and safety for youth in crisis. Now more than ever, the yellow Safe Place sign is a symbol of respite, a place where help is available to young people no matter what. In 35 years, Safe Place has evolved and continues to do so. The most recent development was the transition to a new TXT 4 HELP number, 4HELP (44357). You can read more about this program update on page 6. In the coming months, NSPN will share details about other innovative Safe Place program opportunities.

The Safe Place and TXT 4 HELP programs continue to be there for youth in need. With all the challenges many young people are facing, including the current opioid crisis, bullying, and abuse and violence, Safe Place continues to be an open door to immediate help. We hope you will join us in spreading the word about these vital programs. TXT 4 HELP is available to assist youth via text messaging 24/7 no matter where they are located. Safe Place locations further extend the services of local youth shelters throughout communities, creating a safety net for youth. NSPN encourages youth and adults alike to take a stand and applauds the movement to say “no more” and to champion safety. In addition, NSPN strongly recognizes the need for both a place and a way for youth to connect, access supportive resources, and prevent harmful situations from occurring.

NSPN is honored to partner with licensed Safe Place agencies, member organizations, individuals, and corporations that support and strengthen the system of response for youth in this country. We appreciate all you do to keep youth safe.

Laurie Jackson



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NSPN HONORS



Marie Shaw

NSPN is honored to recognize **Marie Shaw** and her friends' and family's contributions to the organization in memory of her beloved husband, John Shaw. Marie and John have been connected to the NSPN family for over 15 years, including Marie's service as a member of the National Safe Place Advisory Board. NSPN is grateful for Marie and John's contributions and passion for youth.

NSPN Welcomes Dave Brennan and Kevin Priest to the National Advisory Board



Dave Brennan

Dave Brennan recently joined the NSPN Advisory Board. Dave has more than 20 years of experience in the marketing and advertising industry. Dave also serves on the YMCA Safe Place Services Board in Louisville, Kentucky, and has served as a mentor for children with incarcerated parents for more than a decade.

Kevin Priest has been a nonprofit youth and family services CEO for the past 16 years. After spending more than eight years as the CEO with NSPN member organization, Arnette House Inc., in Ocala, Florida, Kevin moved to Tallahassee and became the CEO for CCYS (formerly Capital City Youth Services) in July 2010. Kevin is also a recent EMBA graduate of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.



Kevin Priest

NSPN HAPPENINGS

Youth Invited to Share Artwork for "Heart of the Matter"

NSPN is excited to collect artwork for "Heart of the Matter," a digital canvas for youth to share their stories through art. Young people have significant experiences and perspectives to share, and their voices are powerful. "Heart of the Matter" serves to emphasize the creativity, passion, and spirit displayed by youth as they overcome challenges, chase their dreams, and build bright futures.

"Heart of the Matter" is a digital publication of youth artwork, scheduled to be published online and distributed nationally later this year. Artwork submissions may include drawings, paintings, murals, photography, personal essays, poetry, song lyrics, dance, theatrical performances, raps, and more.

The artwork submission deadline is August 31, 2018. Learn more about "Heart of the Matter" and submit artwork at www.nspnetwork.org/heart-of-the-matter.



Visual Arts



Literature



Performing Arts



Heart of the Matter

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.

NSPN's national conference provides opportunities for youth and youth service professionals to gain knowledge and advance the field through:

Organizational Development

- Delivering on the Promise of Diversity and Inclusion
- Executive Leader Conversations
- Federal Policy Impacting Runaway and Homeless Youth Services

Professional Development

- Journey from Youth Worker to Executive Leader
- Implementing Change: Addressing the Intersections of Youth Homelessness and Juvenile Justice
- Research in Practice Settings: Working Toward Effective Services

Training

- Working with Transgender and Non-conforming Youth
- Building Relationships with Youth Survivors of Human Trafficking
- Direct Service: Our Responsibility to Homeless Youth and Families

Safe Place

- Developing Corporate Partnerships to Strengthen Your Safe Place Program
- Working Within the School System
- Safe Place: Does it Work? Measuring Impact Through Outcomes

Youth Empowerment

- My VCP: Choosing Values for a Path of Success
- Youth Voice! Youth with Lived Experience Improving Policy and Practice
- Nicho Shrine Art

Focus 2018 Also Features:

- Certification opportunities
- NSPN Awards luncheon
- Runaway games
- 20-year-old time capsule
- 10 additional workshop sessions
- Fishbowl discussion - voices of youth
- Site visits
- Youth Expression through Art off-site celebration
- Opportunities to be a part of history
- CEUs available

Focus 2018 Registration Rates

- Youth (up to 21 years of age) –\$50
- NSPN members – \$350
- Licensed Safe Place agencies – \$350
- Standard registration rate –\$400

Membership News

NSPN Membership Milestone

In 2018, National Safe Place Network (NSPN) membership surpassed the 40-year history mark. Imagine it—before there was Facebook, GPS, or text messaging, there was Network membership. Before there was Nintendo, a camcorder, Tickle Me Elmo, or even Microsoft Windows, there was Network membership. Back when Jimmy Carter was president and gas was 62 cents per gallon, a group of nonprofit organizations came together because those members knew what is still true today—collaboration, sharing, and support make the field stronger and make a difference.

The passage of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act as Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 led to the creation of technical assistance contracts in each of the 10 Department of Health and Human Services federal regions. Beginning in 1977, membership of what was then the Southeastern Network of Runaway Youth Services began. The Southeastern Network was established to not only provide federally funded technical assistance and training but to create a true network where the activities were driven by members because the focus was on members.

For more than 40 years, the Network has grown. In 2013 the Network, by then called the Youth and Family Services Network, merged with National Safe Place to create NSPN. Since that time, membership has grown to embrace representation in 31 states and includes small agencies focused on one service population to large, multi-million dollar organizations serving multiple counties and even entire states. National partners have joined as members, and all of the efforts are built on a shared vision of a world where all youth are safe.

It is the “how” NSPN does its work that makes membership stand out. The Network motto of “Together, we can,” first used in 1985, has continued to be the foundation of NSPN membership services. Members come to share their expertise with others. Members come to link with others who have faced and overcome similar challenges. Members, many of whom are original to the class of 1977, recognize the value in such a Network and the return on investment for their organizations. NSPN membership is committed to ongoing partnership with members because working toward a shared vision makes sustainable change truly possible.



**Your needs.
Your network.
Together we can!**



SAFE PLACE NEWS

Communities Celebrate National Safe Place Week

National Safe Place Week (NSP Week) was celebrated in communities across the country March 18–24, 2018. The week began with the launch of the NSP Week Thunderclap, a unified social media post that reached over 135,000 people. Licensed agencies kept the momentum going throughout the week with a variety of awareness activities, including community fairs, school presentations, art projects, news interviews, Safe Place volunteer and site recognition events, community partnership dedications, and more. The following images capture a few highlights from NSP Week. To view more images and read about additional celebrations, please visit www.nationalsafeplace.org/nsp-week.



[Compass House](#) volunteer Niliyah Collins set up a table in the Compass House Resource Center to share information about Safe Place with visitors.



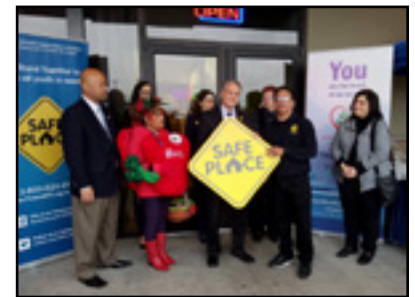
[Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services](#) received an NSP Week proclamation from Jeffersonville, Indiana, Mayor Mike Moore.



Benjamin, the Safe Place coordinator with [YouthCare](#), and Bryan, the Safe Place liaison with [Friends of Youth](#), are enthusiastic about the start of NSP Week 2018.



[Youth Connections](#) visited Needham Elementary School (IN) where youth created posters representing what Safe Place means to them.



[Fresno EOC Sanctuary Youth Shelter](#) welcomed its Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program as Fresno County's newest Safe Place site.

New TXT 4 HELP Short Code

TEENS
TEXT THE WORD
"SAFE"
AND YOUR
CURRENT LOCATION
(STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE)
TO
4HELP (44357)
FOR IMMEDIATE HELP
NOW WITH THE OPTION FOR
INTERACTIVE TEXTING

TXT 4 HELP

TXT 4 HELP is a nationwide, 24-hour text-for-support service for youth in crisis.

How it works:
Text the word "safe" and your current location (city/state/zip) to 4HELP (44357).

Within seconds, you will receive a message with the closest Safe Place® location. Reply with "2Chat" to text one-on-one with a counselor. It's quick, easy, safe, and confidential.

www.nationalsafeplace.org

In February, NSPN announced the transition to the new TXT 4 HELP short code, 4HELP (44357). This change reflects a major improvement to the national TXT 4 HELP initiative.

Since its inception in 2009, TXT 4 HELP has utilized the shared short code, 69866. Shared short codes are numbers shared among multiple organizations with unique keywords associated with each organization. For example, the keyword for TXT 4 HELP is "safe." If a young person texts "safe" to 69866, he or she will receive Safe Place messages. If a young person intends to use TXT 4 HELP but texts a different word selected by an organization sharing the same short code, he or she may receive messages from another organization. NSPN is committed to increasing access to safety for all youth through Safe Place program expansion, increased partnerships, and measures to lessen risk for youth. This commitment, along with research, funding awards, and discussions with the NSPN Advisory Board and Board of Directors, led to the decision to

move from a shared short code to a dedicated, stand-alone short code. NSPN will keep the original short code (69866) operational for one year, which will be used as a transition period for outreach materials and messaging. www.nationalsafeplace.org/txt-4-help.

History of Runaway and Homeless Youth Services

The runaway and homeless youth (RHY) field has experienced significant change since the original Runaway and Homeless Youth Act was passed in 1974. NSPN has been honored to be a part of those changes as the operator of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) since 2012—including the 40th anniversary of the passing of the historic legislation that was celebrated at the 2014 National RHY Grantees Training in Phoenix, Arizona.

Until fiscal year (FY) 2007, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded funds to multiple nonprofit organizations to provide this assistance in each of the Administration for Children and Families' regions. In FY 2007, HHS reorganized the technical assistance providers and created two national centers—the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training Center and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Technical Assistance Center. These centers were collectively known as RHYTTAC and were operated by the University of Oklahoma's National Resource Center for Youth Services through FY 2012. HHS awarded a five-year grant, from 2013 through 2017, to National Safe Place Network (NSPN), which was re-awarded the RHYTTAC cooperative agreement for a three-year cycle from 2017 to 2020. RHYTTAC is designed to assist Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) grantees in developing effective approaches to serving RHY, accessing new resources, and establishing linkages to other programs with similar interests and challenges.

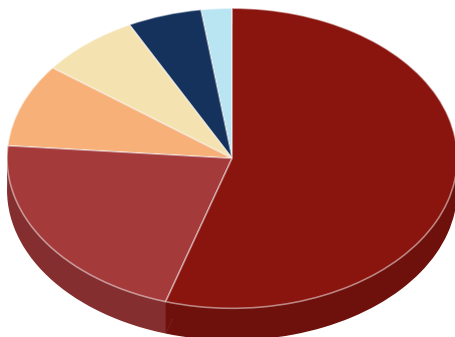
Perhaps the best indicators of NSPN's capacity to operate RHYTTAC are the numbers and the story they tell. Since NSPN assumed responsibility for RHYTTAC in 2012, there have been more than 10,000 technical assistance contacts with grantees; 3,321 conference attendees; 2,470 attendees for land-based events other than conferences; 25,401 eLearning sessions completed; 4,159 attendees of facilitated webinars; and 1,029 participants in Talk It Out Thursday calls. There are more than 900 participants in the Community of Practice, and RHYTTAC has 872 Facebook followers and 474 Twitter followers.



Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center

over **48,000 CONTACTS**
..... in just **5 YEARS**

eLearning sessions	25,401	TA support	10,000
Facilitated webinars	4,159	National conferences	3,321
On-site trainings	2,470	TIOT conference calls	1,029



Facebook

RHYTTAC has connected with more than 872 RHY grantees through Facebook.



Twitter

RHYTTAC has shared resources with more than 474 RHY grantees through Twitter.



COP

RHYTTAC has engaged with 900 Communities of Practice group members.



2722 Crittenden Drive, Louisville, KY 40209

NSPN IS PROUD TO OPERATE



FYSB Family & Youth
Services Bureau

Runaway and Homeless
Youth Training & Technical
Assistance Center

CONNECT

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(tw) www.twitter.com/nspntweets

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.