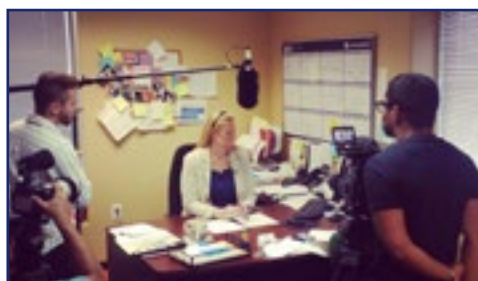


THE NSPN sider

THE NATIONAL SAFE PLACE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE NETWORK TO BE FEATURED IN UPCOMING DOCUMENTARY, "LOST IN AMERICA"



The "Lost in America" crew gathers in Laurie Jackson's office to shoot the interview.



Pictured from left to right: Hillary Ladig, Jorge Rivera, Chris Dowske, Rotimi Rainwater, Steve Vasquez and Laurie Jackson.

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In August 2015, Laurie Jackson, NSPN President / CEO, was interviewed by documentary filmmaker Rotimi Rainwater about the issue of youth homelessness in the U.S. Select portions of the interview will be featured in Rainwater's full-length feature documentary, "Lost in America." The film follows Rainwater as he journeys across America in an effort to shine a light on youth homelessness.

"Lost in America" takes an all-encompassing look at the issues surrounding youth homelessness: from human trafficking and challenges within the child welfare system to the hundreds of thousands of youth rejected by their families due to their sexual orientation. Rainwater met with youth in communities across the country who are living on the streets, disconnected from their families and struggling with the harsh realities of homelessness. In addition to his conversations with young people, Rainwater also interviewed leaders of both local and national organizations working to end youth homelessness, including NSPN's own Laurie Jackson.

"We were doing some research on national youth organizations and everyone kept mentioning National Safe Place Network," said Rainwater. "After I spoke with Laurie on the phone and heard her passion for serving youth, I just knew I needed to have her in the film."

Rainwater expressed the significance of Jackson's perspective on youth homelessness. "National Safe Place Network is the only organization working on a national level to create Safe Places for youth. Every kid knows where the local library or fire station is and I believe providing youth a way to get help that is convenient or familiar to them is so important. That's why I needed National Safe Place Network involved in the film."

"Lost in America" will be released in 2016.

LAURIE'S CORNER



It is astounding how time just seems to fly by, one season quickly into the next. It feels like it was just spring time and yet when I look around it is fall and moving quickly towards the holidays. As I am sure is true at many agencies across the country, it is a very busy time for NSPN. We are in the throes of planning and preparing for the annual FYSB RHY Grantees Conference and the NSPN Focus 2016 conference, as well as multiple online and on-site events, budgeting for the new year and grant year end, and participating in interviews and other awareness activities. In the midst of it all, I find I need to slow down and take a minute to consider all of the young people in need, in need not only of safe places, but also safe interactions and safe relationships. I pause to reflect on the incredible, inspiring work accomplished by NSPN affiliates each and every day which positively impacts the lives of youth and families. They provide life-giving and life-changing support by helping youth create their own safety in a way that defines who they are and how they want to move forward.

As you will read in this issue, I was interviewed recently for the documentary, "Lost in America," about homeless youth in the United States. The interviewer and I shared stories about the youth we have met and interacted with during our careers. There are so many stories of both success and tragedy. It was heartwarming and heartbreaking to reminisce. As I reflect on this interaction I can't help but think of all the work being done to support homeless youth but also all the work that still needs to be accomplished. I urge and invite you, whether an individual, employee, volunteer at an agency or a company, or a public official – continue to educate yourself about the needs and issues facing runaway and homeless youth. Take action to improve the situation for these youth and families: educate government officials (at all levels); share information about youth homelessness; volunteer (whether to cook a meal, assist with homework, mentor or participate at an event); donate to an organization serving these young people; or, write a thank-you note to those who provide assistance to youth every day. This action may make all the difference between heartwarming and heartbreak. Rest assured, it does and will make a difference. As time continues to move by us so quickly and our time is filled with tasks and plans, please make time to take action! Together, our collective actions will serve as catalysts for change, working to ensure youth are no longer "Lost in America."

Laurie Jackson

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NSPN ADVOCACY UPDATE

NSPN staff has had the opportunity to meet with staffers from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office on two occasions. Staff toured the Louisville, Kentucky-based licensed Safe Place and NSPN member agency – Safe Place Services – and discussed issues impacting young people and runaway and homeless youth programs in Kentucky and across the country. NSPN also provided information about the importance of reauthorizing the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act.



NSPN HONORS



Jeff Lenard

NSPN is pleased to welcome Jeff Lenard as a member of the Board of Directors. Lenard is the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for the National Association of Convenience Stores. He is an award-winning communications strategist with a wealth of experience in public relations and marketing.



Lauren Sherry

NSPN is excited to welcome Lauren Sherry to the Board of Directors. Sherry is the Manager of Public Relations for QuikTrip Corporation, a convenience and gasoline retailer company. She oversees all public relations and community relations efforts for the company.



Kathy Houser

NSPN recognizes the contributions of Kathy Houser, who is moving on to new activities after a successful year of service on the Advisory Board. NSPN, the Board of Directors, and the Advisory Board are grateful for her participation and support.

THE GIFT OF GIVING



**“We make a living
by what we get,
but we make a life
by what we give.”**

~ Winston Churchill



The late Winston Churchill said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” So much of our lives are dedicated to making a living in order to support ourselves and our families. But, how much of our lives are devoted to giving? According to Churchill, giving is at the core of life – giving adds quality and purpose.

As an organization serving youth in crisis and those who provide vital services to this population, NSPN relies on gifts from individuals and corporate partners to ensure an effective system of response for all youth. NSPN utilizes donated goods, time and funds to expand the national safety net for youth, educate more young people about Safe Place and TXT 4 HELP, create new resources to better train staff at youth and family services agencies, and effectively support licensed Safe Place and Network member agencies across the country. Without such contributions, NSPN simply would not have the opportunity to continue this necessary work.

As the holiday season approaches and 2015 comes to a close, we encourage you to share the gift of giving with a charity organization near and dear to your heart. Whether you contribute to NSPN or a local organization in your community, donations make a difference and your gift will help promote positive change no matter how large or small it is. Please consider helping NSPN create a world in which all youth are safe by donating now at: www.tinyurl/nspndonation.

NSPN MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

NSPN Experiences Membership Growth

The 2015-2016 membership year has been one of growth for NSPN. As of early September, **NSPN membership has expanded into 31 states**, up from 22 states in 2014-2015. Members have access to several webinars conducted this year on the topics of fundraising, advocacy, marketing, leadership, and more. In addition, NSPN hosted a number a new training events. These include:



Attendees participate in NSPN's New Leadership Institute in Savannah, Georgia.

Clinicians' Coffee House, May – June 2015: This online course geared toward clinicians covered the topic, "How Self-Care can Lead to Preventing Vicarious Trauma and Contribute to a Better Trauma-Informed Approach for Organizations."

New Leadership Institute, August 2015: This institute, geared toward middle-managers and new leaders, took place over three days in Savannah, Georgia. Participants from around the country gathered to learn new leadership techniques, hone skills, and share stories and provide guidance for other participants.

Child and Youth Care: Foundations training course and certification, July 2015: NSPN hosted this six-day training in Albany, Georgia, and covered topics including: professional ethics and regulation; brain-based guidance techniques; communication; and developmentally-based programming.

Youth Care Workers are Becoming Certified

As the exclusive national training partner with the Academy for Competent Youth Work, NSPN has provided three Child and Youth Care: Foundations courses and certification opportunities to youth care workers from across the country. Participants have pursued certification at the basic and associate levels (national certification) and the professional level (international certification). NSPN is gearing up to provide additional classes in the future. Watch www.nspnetwork.org for upcoming events. Interested in hosting a training at your agency? Contact us for additional information at info@nspnetwork.org.



Let NSPN help you become certified!

The CYC: Foundations Course is eight 5-hour modules that include the following topics:

- Introduction to Professional CYC Practice
- Professional Ethics and Regulation
- Brain-based Guidance Techniques
- Assessment and Documentation
- Communication
- Developmentally Based Programming
- Relationship Development
- Group Work
- Activity Development and Leadership
- Supervising Children and Youth
- Cultural Diversity

Strengthen your knowledge and skills today by becoming a Certified Youth Care Worker!

- Receive the benefits of high-quality, cost-effective training that builds on individual experiences of child and youth workers.
- Become part of a competent, certified group of child and youth care workers advancing the youth services field.
- Individuals with varying levels of experience are welcome.
- Discounted course registration fees available for NSPN members and licensed Safe Place agencies. Course registration is free for FYSB RHY grantee agencies.

Connect with Us!

info@nspnetwork.org (fb) [nspnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/nspnetwork)
(w) [nspnetwork.org](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nspnetwork) (tw) [nspntweets](https://twitter.com/nspntweets)



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



Safe Place Program Expansion

NSPN is pleased to announce Safe Place program expansion in five new communities in Utah and Indiana.

Black and yellow Safe Place signs are now visible in the following towns in Indiana: Lafayette, Columbus, Portland and Ft. Wayne. Safe Place is now managed by 14 youth service agencies in Indiana and can be found in 23 counties and more than 100 communities across the state. In addition to growth in Indiana, Safe Place was also launched in Ogden, Utah, becoming the second program in the state.

Start Safe Place in your community today and become part of the national safety net for youth! info@nationalsafeplace.org

TXT 4 HELP is Making a Difference

TXT 4 HELP is an extension of NSPN's Safe Place program, offering youth the opportunity to access immediate help and support through text messaging. The 24/7, text-for-support service provides information about the closest Safe Place location as well as the option to text interactively with a mental health professional.

TXT 4 HELP was launched in 2009 and the interactive texting component was added three years later. Since 2012, NSPN has tracked more than 2,770 interactive texting cases. TXT 4 HELP allows us to meet youth where they are and it's working. Take a look at an actual TXT 4 HELP conversation at: www.tinyurl.com/txt4helpvideo.

There are many circumstances that require a safety net for youth. It's important for all youth to be aware of the supportive resources available to them. Everyone knows a young person or someone who knows a young person. Take time today, to share TXT 4 HELP information. Help us keep kids safe.

SAFE PLACE: REAL KIDS. REAL STORIES.



Erika's Story

Erika, 14, was in need of help but felt she had nowhere to turn. She visited her local library frequently and oftentimes would spend full days at the location. One day before closing time, a library staff person approached Erika to discuss what was going on and to provide assistance. The staff member shared information about Safe Place and The Center for Youth Services. Erika contacted the agency directly and within 30 minutes, a Safe Place representative arrived at the library to meet with her. She decided it was best to go to the agency for counseling and residential services. Erika stayed at the crisis shelter for 15 days while issues between her and her mother were resolved. After her stay, Erika successfully returned home.

SAVE THE DATE

6/29 - 7/1

Join youth and family services staff from organizations across the country, including:

community and street outreach staff, clinicians, youth care workers, program coordinators and directors, Safe Place coordinators, development coordinators and directors, marketing and communications staff, and leadership staff **at your national conference, Focus 2016.** **Provided by:**



WHAT'S THE
BIG?
IDEA?

Focus 2016 Dallas, TX

For more information call 888.290.7233 or visit nspnetwork.org.

RHYTTAC NEWS AND UPDATES



Runaway and Homeless Youth
Training & Technical Assistance Center

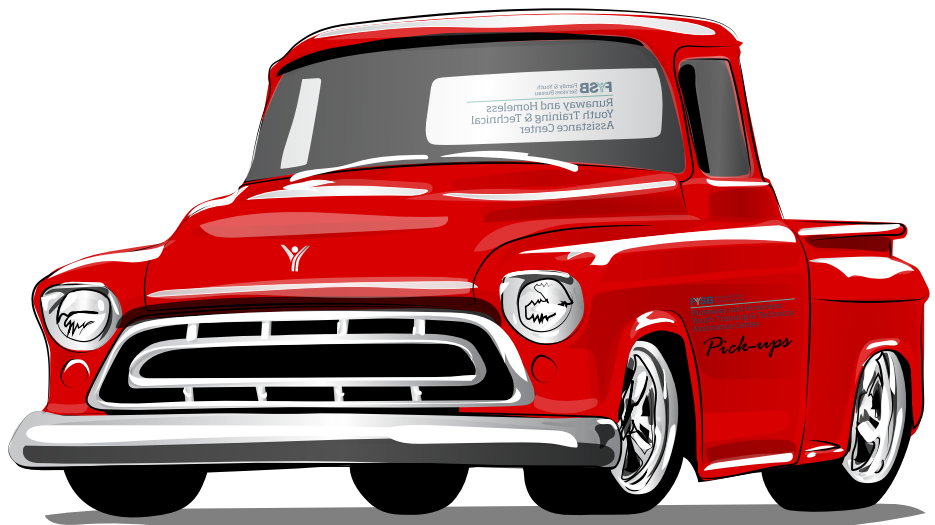
Pick the time. Pick the location. Pick the topic. We'll be there.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) is pleased to provide both web-based and land-based training. Most recently, RHYTTAC has provided land-based trainings from Georgia to Hawaii and has covered a range of topics including human trafficking, trauma-informed care, case management, crisis de-escalation, and motivational interviewing.

RHYTTAC encourages grantees to access training via our “pick-up” option. If your organization is in close proximity (easy driving distance) to other RHY grantees – consider joining together to identify shared training needs. The idea is simple. You pick the date, the location and the topic and the training team will show up! This provides grantees with the option to pick areas of focus as well as an opportunity to network and learn from each other.

Please keep in mind that topics must be approved by FYSB and options must meet schedule and budgetary guidelines. If you have training or technical assistance needs, please email us at info@rhyttac.net and RHYTTAC will partner with you to meet the training needs of grantees in your area.

Want to schedule a pick-up?
Email us at info@rhyttac.net or “pick-up” the phone and give us a call at: 888.290.7233



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF RHYTTAC

Grantee Spotlight

Would you like your program to be featured in our grantee spotlight section of rhyttac.net? Any FYSB RHY grantee organization is eligible to submit an application. We want to highlight all of you – regardless of the size of your agency or how many grants you may have. Your organization is doing critical work to support runaway and homeless youth. These efforts deserve to be recognized. The spotlight features grantees from every HHS region. For more information or to apply, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/granteespotlight>.



RHYTTAC 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 discussion based conference calls provide opportunities for staff from RHY programs to join in for an hour long discussion regarding a variety of RHY topics.

Check the calendar at rhyttac.net for the topic and schedule.



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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(P) 502-635-3660



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(tw) 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.