

THE NSPN sider

THE NATIONAL SAFE PLACE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE YOUTH SAFETY DURING NSP WEEK



Martin's Super Market employees in South Bend, Indiana, celebrate their store's involvement in the Safe Place program.



Wendy Gore, Development Director for Sea Haven Inc., receives an NSP Week proclamation from North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Mayor Marilyn Hatley.

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National Safe Place (NSP) Week was celebrated nationally March 19–25, 2017. The annual week highlights the Safe Place® program, which has helped more than 347,000 youth since it began in 1983.

This year, 40 licensed agencies representing 473 communities reported they held activities and events to raise awareness of Safe Place and recognize community partners. Agencies hosted Safe Place site and volunteer appreciation events, art contests, city and county proclamation readings, news interviews, youth engagement activities, and more.

Wendy Gore, Development Director for Sea Haven Inc. in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, shared the following about her agency's involvement in Safe Place:

"Sea Haven has participated in NSP Week since 2009 and all of our efforts to promote awareness about our agency and Safe Place have been welcomed and received by surrounding communities. Every town in our county participates in Safe Place. The program has surely been an extension of Sea Haven's mission."

National Safe Place Network (NSPN) tracked more than 45 print, broadcast, and online news stories about Safe Place during the week. NSP Week was also celebrated on social media with hundreds of posts, tweets, and an official Thunderclap campaign that reached 132,586 people.

NSPN sincerely thanks all the dedicated staff and volunteers who helped celebrate and raise awareness of Safe Place during NSP Week 2017.

LAURIE'S CORNER



NSP Week celebrates the very idea of Safe Place, licensed Safe Place agencies and sites, staff and volunteers, and youth and families helped by the program. This year, NSP Week was observed March 19–25 in communities across the country. As you look through this issue you will notice a few of the many activities that took place during this week of tribute. I send a huge thank you to all of the Safe Place agencies for their excellent work and commitment to Safe Place.

Working with youth and families in crisis is very rewarding but it's also stressful, difficult, and filled with lessons to be learned by those involved. NSPN is launching a round of Innovation Circles, a project that brings together all levels of professionals from the field to discuss a topic affecting the critical work being done to support youth and families. This year's focus is "Striving for Cultural Excellence," a topic garnering more focus every day. Learn more about how to participate and lend your voice; NSPN wants to hear from you and share your insights through Innovation Circles.

Creating a safety net for youth in crisis is the foundation of NSPN's work. Youth are not just the future of our country but of the world. More and more often, events are showcased that polarize the individuals of this country; there is less tolerance for those with differing views or ideas, for those who look a certain way, or for those in poverty, in crisis, or in need. NSPN strongly encourages and believes in coming together to work with youth and families to address these issues creating crisis in their world. Providing safety, keeping families together, and embracing tolerance, patience, and diversity are paramount in this effort.

Please let us know how NSPN can be of greater assistance to you and your organization. What can be done better? What is being done well? What would you like to see offered? I look forward to hearing from you.

Laurie Jackson

ENVISION A WORLD WHERE ALL YOUTH ARE SAFE

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NSPN HONORS

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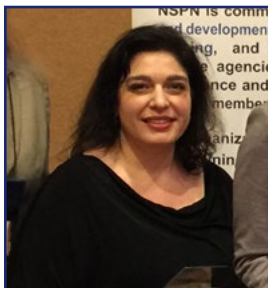


CSX has been a generous, ongoing supporter of NSPN over the years. The rail company recently contributed \$100,000 to support Safe Place expansion efforts and NSPN training opportunities. In addition, CSX hosted the recent NSPN Board of Directors meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. NSPN is extremely grateful for CSX's commitment to enhancing programs and services for youth and families.

Kars4Kids



Kars4Kids, a national nonprofit organization that funds educational and youth programs for kids, recently awarded NSPN with a \$1,000 grant to support the growing network of Safe Place communities and ensure TXT 4 HELP remains a vital part of the safety net for youth. NSPN is grateful for Kars4Kids' contribution to the Safe Place program.



Michelle Tutunjian

Michelle Tutunjian recently joined the NSPN Board of Directors after serving three years on the Advisory Board. Michelle has more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit management and currently serves as Director of Sanctuary and Youth Services for the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission. NSPN and the Board of Directors are pleased to welcome Michelle and look forward to her leadership in this role.



Katie Carter

Katie Carter, former Director of Research, Education and Public Policy, recently transitioned to a new role with the Presbyterian Church (USA). NSPN is thankful for Katie's two years of service in which she led tremendous growth of the membership program and increased advocacy initiatives.

SUPPORT YOUTH, SUPPORT THE NETWORK

Young people facing abuse, neglect, bullying, homelessness, or other crises can find immediate safety through services provided by NSPN. Today we invite you to join a special group of donors committed to making sure we continue providing critical resources that keep youth protected and connected with safe and caring adults.

Your investment allows Safe Place to help kids like 15 year-old Michael, who escaped family abuse by using TXT 4 HELP, and 14 year-old Matilda, who reached out when she was suicidal after being bullied at school and online.

Almost 70,000 kids will rely on NSPN this year to access safety and support. With your help, we can do even more! Together we will make sure no youth is left on the streets wondering where to turn for help. **Please support NSPN and invest in young people today. Donate online at www.nspnetwork.org/give or return your contribution in the enclosed envelope.**



NSPN MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND UPDATES

NSPN Launching Emerging Leaders Institute for the 2017-18 Membership Year

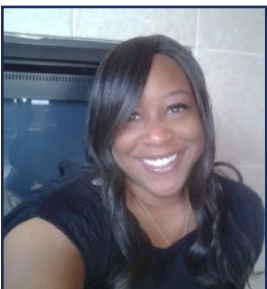
Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) is a six-week web-based event that provides an opportunity for staff of youth and family service agencies who are new to their roles as shift leaders, managers, supervisors, and directors to focus on the skills needed to support ongoing success. ELI combines webinars, readings, networking calls, case studies, and individual coaching to create a varied experience designed to meet each participant's needs. The sessions are facilitated by experienced leaders who will assist participants in supportive and engaging ways. Participation in ELI is free for Professional Development members. Watch Plugged iN or visit www.nspnetwork.org for details.



Innovation Circles Project

NSPN recently launched Innovation Circles 2017. This effort brings together participants from agencies to discuss a single topic of critical importance to the field. This year, the topic is "Striving for Cultural Excellence." Individuals wishing to participate will be grouped into one of four focus circles: Shift Change (youth care workers), Program Excellence (program managers, supervisors, human resource coordinators, trainers, etc.), Intentional Interventions (counselors, case managers, clinicians, and crisis specialists), and Lead Now (executives, associate executives, and board members.) The four groups will examine the focus topic from the perspectives unique to their respective circles. Participating in the effort will involve several conference calls and a review of the materials. To learn more, send an email to info@nspnetwork.org with the subject line "Innovation Circles."

Getting to Know the New Additions to the Membership Support Team



April Carthorn brings more than 20 years of experience in working with youth in both child welfare and runaway and homeless youth (RHY) programs. She began working with RHY youth in a Basic Center Program as a student intern and immediately discovered her career purpose: to advocate and promote safety, financial stability, resilience, and self-sufficiency for at-risk and homeless youth. As a former staff person of a member agency and having served on the NSPN Board of Directors prior to the merger, April understands the essential support needs of organizations and is excited for the opportunity to work one-on-one with agencies to fulfill their purpose, mission, and service goals to vulnerable populations.



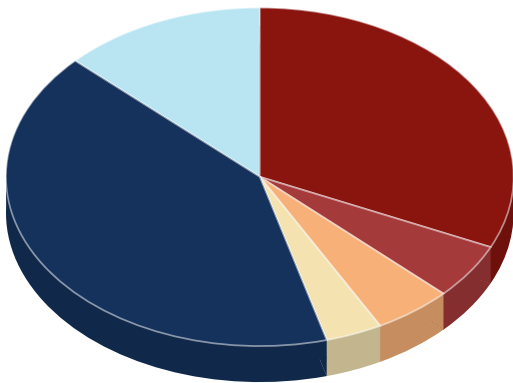
After 15 years as a certified Professional Project Manager in the private sector, **Shauna Brooks** transitioned to a career in social work. She earned her MSSW in a Management, Leadership and Community Practice program at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. After earning her master's degree, Shauna worked as a youth advocate in a local Transitional Living Program (TLP). She has worked with NSPN since 2013, supporting a national professional development study, coordinating a program sustainability initiative, conducting literature reviews about transition-age youth and special populations, and collecting organizational development resources. Shauna looks forward to partnering with member organizations to strengthen connections between experts in the field, social investors, and policy makers.

RHYTTAC NEWS AND UPDATES

For the past four years, NSPN, through the operation of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC), has celebrated many successes in providing meaningful training and technical assistance to runaway and homeless youth RHY grantees throughout the country and U.S. territories. From the annual National RHY Grantees Conference to the weekly “Talk It Out Thursday” discussion calls, RHYTTAC has offered support for the RHY community to improve outcomes, strengthen staff training, and support agencies in their capacity to provide expert services to youth and young adults.

over **16,000 CONTACTS**
..... in just **4 YEARS**

National conferences	2,698	Regional/local trainings	450
TLP/MGH grantees trainings	425	SOP grantees trainings	307
Webinars	3,500	TIOT conference calls	1,100



Phone
RHYTTAC has connected with RHY grantees over 1,304 phone calls.



Email
RHYTTAC has assisted RHY grantees through 6,266 emails.



COP
RHYTTAC has engaged with 866 *Communities of Practice* group members.

The annual National RHY Grantees Conference has hosted 2,698 participants in the last four years, with an average yearly attendance of 675 RHY practitioners. The TLP/Maternity Group Home (MGH) Grantees trainings have hosted 425 participants, and 307 RHY staff participated in the Street Outreach Program Grantees trainings. Over 3,500 grantees have participated in live webinars hosted by RHYTTAC, and more than 1,100 callers have engaged in a “Talk It Out Thursday” discussion. In addition, RHYTTAC has hosted over 450 participants in over 50 land-based trainings across the country.

RHYTTAC’s accomplishments continue into 2017 thanks to the commitment and ongoing support of the RHY community. Grantees are the heart of RHY, and RHYTTAC continues to celebrate the success of agencies and staff in improving the lives of youth in communities nationwide.

SAFE PLACE NEWS AND UPDATES

Safe Place Program Expansion in Minnesota



This spring marks exciting Safe Place program expansion in the state of Minnesota. Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota has added seven communities to the Safe Place network in the state, bringing the total number to eight Safe Place communities statewide. Bethany Crisis Shelter in Duluth launched the Safe Place program in 2012 and will now be joined by seven Lutheran Social Service agencies in the following communities: Brainerd, Cloquet, Mankato, Rochester, Virginia, Willmar, and the Twin Cities. These new licensed agencies greatly expand the geographic areas where Safe Place services are available.

"We know that early intervention in kids' lives is critically important," explained Kathy Sauve, Program Director for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. "We got involved in Safe Place because we believe that we can all watch out for

our kids and play an active role in making sure they get the help they need early on before smaller problems become much larger."

National Safe Place Network welcomes each of these agencies to the national safety net for youth and looks forward to future expansion opportunities of this kind.

Want to start Safe Place?

Interested in starting Safe Place in your community? Contact NSPN today to learn more about how you can expand the national safety net for youth! info@nationalsafeplace.org

NSP WEEK 2017 IN PHOTOS





Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services' staff receive an NSP Week proclamation from Jeffersonville, Indiana, Mayor Mike Moore.



Cocoon House staff in Everett, Washington, show their Safe Place spirit during NSP Week.



Charity Sailors, member of the North Texas Youth Connection's Youth Advocacy Council, organized a Safe Place poster contest at her high school in Pottsboro, Texas.



Staff from The Relatives Inc. in Charlotte, North Carolina, shared information about their Safe Place program with WCCB News Rising.



Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission Sanctuary and Youth Services honors community supporters at its annual Safe Place Recognition Breakfast in Fresno, California.



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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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(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.