

NSPN sights

THE NATIONAL SAFE PLACE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Journey to Safety



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2020 has been a tumultuous year. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has brought increased stress to households across the nation. School districts have had to navigate in-person and virtual delivery modes of learning. Communities across the United States have also been grappling with unrest and increased calls for an equitable society. In light of all of these events, the need for a connection to safety is more important now than ever before.

Prior to the pandemic, youth were experiencing problems such as bullying, trafficking, homelessness, and more. The pandemic has drastically reduced access to resources across the country, but these kids are still suffering. These are youth like [Amaya](#), who left home in the midst of a global pandemic because of fights with her father. Or [Zander](#), who was contemplating suicide after the death of his mother.

This year, NSPN launched the [Journey to Safety campaign](#). The Journey to Safety campaign seeks to increase support of Safe Place® so young people like Amaya and Zander know there is somewhere to turn when they are experiencing bullying, suicidal thoughts, homelessness, abuse, and neglect and to share stories about Safe Place's national impact. The Safe Place sign is the universal symbol of safety. All youth in crisis can access help when going to a Safe Place or utilizing TXT 4 HELP. National Safe Place Network (NSPN) will be sharing the stories of various youth on their own journeys to safety throughout the year on Facebook and Twitter. You can follow their stories at www.nationalsafeplace.org/journey-to-safety and donate \$20, \$50, \$100, or more to support the journey to safety for more youth in crisis at www.nationalsafeplace.org/give. You can make a difference.

LAURIE'S CORNER



Safety changes everything. Do you recall at least one time in your life when you didn't feel safe? What were the emotions you experienced when this happened? This year, there has been a universal experience of feeling unsafe. COVID-19 has brought hidden disparities to the surface. Massive layoffs, illness, and loss of loved ones have pushed families to the breaking point. Racial inequalities have been exacerbated and displayed. **Through all of the chaos, young people are getting lost.**

For years, Safe Place® has provided immediate help to young people facing abuse, neglect, homelessness, bullying, mental health issues – in addition to human trafficking and other predatory activity. Young people are still facing these issues, but due to the pandemic, their access to resources has been interrupted. School closures have led to many students doing schoolwork at home – a home where they could be experiencing abuse. Eviction moratoriums are the only things keeping families housed, and are being rolled back in some states, pushing families to the street. Where can a young person turn for help when the safety net for youth has been disrupted?

The holiday season is right around the corner and we have to come together to help these youth. **Right now, I'm asking you to please donate \$20, \$50, \$100 or more because youth need a place to go to be safe.**

Your donation will help provide youth:

- Immediate access to safety, shelter, and vital resources through Safe Place®,
- Access '2Chat' with a licensed professional free of charge through TXT 4 HELP and;
- Organizations and agencies that are professionally trained to meet youth's diverse needs.

Please give today. A gift from you will show young people they have not been forgotten in the chaos and there are people who care. Take a look now (www.nationalsafeplace.org/journey-to-safety), to see how your donation will make a difference. Together, we can make create a universal experience of feeling – and being – safe for young people.

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

With much appreciation,

Laurie Jackson
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Supporting One Another During Uncertain Times

Adapting in the Midst of Crisis

NSPN, like many organizations across the nation, was forced to adapt quickly when COVID-19 began making significant impacts in March. The response to our member and licensed Safe Place® agencies needed to be timely, supportive, and center their diverse needs. Some of these responses included:

- A printable, customizable if/closed decal for licensed Safe Place agencies to display on Safe Place sites that were closed for COVID-19-related reasons.
- Peer support and resources for youth service providers on NSPN Connect.
- Promotion of TXT 4 HELP as a 24/7 resource for youth to connect with help and safety.
- Holding virtual office hours with national partners National Network for Youth (NN4Y) and National Runaway Safeline (NRS) from March 25th – April 29th that covered topics relating to COVID-19 responses.
- Hosting a Facebook Live on the topic of “Building Connection with Youth During Crisis”.
- Hosting Safe Place Coordinator Chat Calls on the topics of innovative ways to conduct outreach in a pandemic; partner re-engagement; reopening; promoting equity, justice, and inclusion through Safe Place; self-care in a pandemic; and operating Safe Place through virtual means.
- Conducting Focus 2020 virtually.
- Invoicing member and licensed Safe Place agencies for six months of service instead of a year, recognizing the financial impact COVID-19 has had on non-profits.

NSPN continues to innovate our services to best respond to the changing nature of the world. Through the support of our donors, national partners, board members, and members and licensed Safe Place agency we can continue to make a difference in the lives of young people during these challenging times. Together we can!



Coming Together with National Partners and Celebrities

NSPN partnered with The Lost in America Foundation, National Runaway Safeline (NRS), and several celebrities, including Jewel, Snoop Dogg, Kate Bosworth, Dermot Mulroney, and more to help raise awareness about homeless youth during the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. This powerful public service announcement (PSA) highlights the issue that 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness every year in America, with the coronavirus pandemic only making the situation even more dire.

The PSA can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pC30ydx8U48&feature=youtu.be>

In America
4.2 million youth
experience homelessness
every year...

NSPN HONORS

NSPN envisions a world where all youth are safe. This mission is accomplished through partnerships forged at a local, state, and national level. These partnerships help us construct a safety net for youth built by donations and service to NSPN. This service can be a community-based Safe Place program, a corporation partnering to support young people through sponsorships for Focus or TXT 4 Help, an organization utilizing our member benefits, the advisory board members who volunteer their time and expertise to help our organization grow, or the individual who comes upon a Safe Place story and is compelled to give whatever they can. There are many different ways we can come together to support young people, and work toward making our vision of youth safety a reality. NSPN honors those who have shown their support to our organization in 2020.

NSPN Donor and Partner: QuikTrip Corporation



Quiktrip has been an avid supporter of Safe Place and NSPN for years. NSPN is honored by their continued partnership and dedication to youth safety.

Service to Others: Gary Colen



NSPN would like to extend our gratitude to Gary Colen, CEO of AMP Agency. Colen has served the NSPN Board of Directors for three year terms and will be retiring off of the board this year. Thank you for the nine years of dedicated service to youth and the organizations NSPN serves.

RHYTTAC Advisory Board



NSPN would like to give a huge thank you to those who served on the Runaway and Homeless Youth Technical Training and Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) Advisory Board. Your service and dedication to runaway and homeless youth (RHY). Through the work in your respective organizations, as well as service at the national level on the advisory board, each member has been a tireless, vocal advocate for youth who are often overlooked and underrepresented. The RHYTTAC Advisory board members to serve NSPN are:

- Soutdaly Sysavath, Wichita Children's Home
- Chris "Sissie" Hadjiharambous, UT College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Services (SWORPS)
- David Durr, Lighthouse Youth Services
- Dionne McCage, YMCA Safe Place Services
- Aldo Hurtado, Latin American Youth Center
- Elisabeth Jackson, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Inc.
- Frank McAlpin, LA LGBT Center
- Heidi Hartmann, Ocean's Harbor House
- Jennifer Paulsen, Synergy Services, Inc.
- Joli Guenther, Kenosha Human Development Services
- Kathy Sauve, Lutheran Social Services of MN
- Kirstin London, Looking Glass Community Services
- Pauletta Red Willow, Maggie's House TLP
- Risa Rehmert, Wichita State University Center for Combating Human Trafficking
- Sydney Foster, Immerse Arkansas

2020 NSPN Award Winners

In light of current events, NSPN held the biannual Focus 2020 conference virtually August 18th – 20th. The winners of the 2020 NSPN Awards were announced during the closing sessions August 18th and 19th. The 2020 NSPN Award recipients contributed their time, money, expertise, and voices to ensure safety for youth. You can view descriptions of the awards and the recipients' achievements, as well as view transcripts and videos of the acceptance speeches by visiting www.nspnetwork.org/2020-nspn-awards.



Model Program Award
Fresno Economic Opportunities
Commission (EOC)
Food Services Program



Helping Hands Award
Isaiah Duncan
YMCA Safe Place Services



Safe Place® Coordinator of the Year
Chuck Paul
Roy Maas Youth Alternatives



Community Involvement Award
Bank of America
Knoxville, Tennessee



Youth in Action Award
Eric Wolfe
Anchor House



Culture of Respect Award
Judith Clark
Hawaii Youth Services Network



Executive Leadership Award
Lisa Thompson
Project Oz



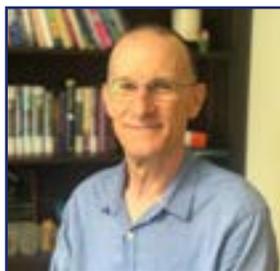
Essential Voice Award
Dr. Matthew Morton
Chapin Hall



Together We Can Award
Darla Bardine
National Network for Youth



Lifetime Achievement Award
Patricia Balke
Wisconsin Association for
Homeless and Runaway Services



Lifetime Achievement Award
Phil Garrett
Every Child's Hope



Dedication to NSPN: Eric Peterson



NSPN would like to show our sincere gratitude to Eric Peterson for another year of service as Communications intern. Peterson has a keen eye for photography and videography, and has provided numerous hours of his time editing, helping with content creation through NSPN's programs, and is always willing to pick-up any task when asked. NSPN appreciates all of the time, dedication, and hard work over the past three years.



2722 Crittenden Drive, Louisville, KY 40209

Thank you for reading the NSPNsights newsletter. This newsletter provides insight into how your support of NSPN makes a difference in young people's lives across the nation. Donate \$20, \$50, \$100, or more today to help support efforts to keep youth safe at www.nspnetwork.org/give. Together we can.



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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.