National Safe Place Partners with RLH Corporation

National Safe Place Network (NSPN) announced a collaboration with RLH Corporation to designate Americas Best Value Inn properties as Safe Place® TXT 4 HELP sites – expanding NSPN’s network and providing more locations in more communities across the country for youth in crisis to go for help. Americas Best Value Inn will be the first national hotel sponsor of the program.

“Unfortunately, in today’s world, young people face family problems, homelessness, bullying, neglect, abuse, and even human trafficking,” said Laurie Jackson, president and ceo of NSPN. “Each year, the Safe Place and TXT 4 HELP programs directly impacts the lives of more than 12,000 youth by providing access to immediate help and safety. TXT 4 HELP has offered real-time assistance to youth in crisis by responding to more than 117,000 incoming text messages since its inception in 2009. We are excited to expand our network now with Americas Best Value Inn locations around the country.”

Safe Place has expanded their reach to more communities by promoting and utilizing TXT 4 HELP sites, which are available in communities where a “traditional” Safe Place program is not available and is part of one of three alternatives models of Safe Place that have been developed over the past year. You may read more about the Safe Place alternative models on page 5.
Happy Holidays! I hope you experience the joy of the season and your reflections on 2019 are full of heartfelt joy and celebration. During this time, I ask you to consider the safety of children and youth.

Right now, in your community, young people are experiencing family issues, abuse, neglect, human trafficking, bullying, and homelessness. For some, the holiday stress cause elevated crisis and disruption with pain or isolation making it even more critical for Safe Place® to be available. I humbly ask you to make a tax deductible donation to National Safe Place Network (NSPN) via our website at www.nationalsafeplace.org/give so NSPN can continue to provide vital connection to these youth.

NSPN works across the country to create a safety net for youth in need and crisis. Our Safe Place® program works with the public and private sector to create safe locations in communities where youth can go to be safe and get connected to shelter and resources to improve their situation and circumstances. In addition, our TXT 4 HELP program is available to all youth anywhere, anytime. It not only provides an address to the closest safe location but more important, an immediate connection to a mental health counselor via texting. The conversation is anonymous and assists hundreds of youth each year with processing and connecting to resources to aid accessing safety.

Your support assures youth in crisis can realize and experience the joy and celebration of the season and of being safe. Please visit our website www.nationalsafeplace.org/give.

Thank you for your contribution!

With much appreciation,

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Children’s Aid Society

new to the nspn team

Michelle Hurley, CSW  
Program Advocate

Michelle’s favorite quote is from Fred Rogers, who said “There are three ways to ultimate success: the first way is to be kind; the second ways is to be kind; the third way is to be kind.”

Josie Elder  
Operations Specialist

Josie shares her belief in the difference that NSPN is making across the country, and is proud to be a part of an organization that helps youth in need.
NSPN HONORS

NSPN Supporters

NSPN would not be able to provide the services and supports we do without the generosity of corporate donors. These donors help bolster our reach and ability to provide access to safety and training services for our member agencies who serve young people. We would like to thank the following corporate donors for what the generous donations they have made this year.

- Tulsa Community Foundation dba Quiktrip Corporation Fund: $102,554
- UPS Foundation, Inc.: $15,000
- Bank of America: $2,000

Laurie Jackson, Executive Director of the Year

Laurie Jackson, President/CEO of National Safe Place Network, was recently awarded the YMCA of Greater Louisville’s 2019 Executive Director award at the annual Excellence Awards on December 12, 2019. Laurie was nominated by the Senior Vice President of the YMCA of Greater Louisville, David Heard, who commended the national reach and capacity Laurie works in, as well as her “sterling national reputation with federal funders as well as all the runaway and homeless youth agencies across the country - thus attracting major federal funding of over $2 Million annually.” As well as the work Laurie does with Safe Place and Membership. NSPN staff are honored to be led by Laurie and know her leadership is what makes our team great. Congratulations Laurie!

Thankful for Years of Service

TC Cassidy, former Director of Organizational Advancement, is enjoying retirement after her dedicated service to NSPN. We are grateful for TC’s service supporting our organization and the expertise she brought to expanding and reinforcing the Human Trafficking resources informational resources NSPN offers.

Sherry Casey, former Operations and Administrative Manager, transitioned to a role outside of the organization in October. Sherry began with Safe Place in 2003 and transitioned into an additional role in 2006. We are grateful for Sherry’s 16 years of dedication to our organization and wish her well in her new venture.

Hillary Ladig, former Communications Coordinator, transitioned to a new role as Corporate Communications Coordinator at Rumpke Waste & Recycling. NSPN is thankful for Hillary’s seven years of service supporting communications, marketing, and public relations efforts.
From Idea to Impact - Charting a Course for Success

As an association, NSPN dedicates resources to helping member organizations achieve their goals. Whether it is becoming trauma-informed, improving management team productivity and culture, or developing an agency wide climate of respect and satisfaction – our members have reached out for assistance since 1977. Foundational to NSPN efforts is the concept of “Idea to Impact.” While it might be a “given” that change within an organization starts with an idea – assessing whether the idea is a good “fit” and presented at the right time isn’t always easy. Implementing the idea and measuring its impact (both positive and negative) are critical parts of the change cycle. Rather than viewing these elements as a linear continuum, NSPN treats these aspects of development as interlocking gears. When one is moving smoothly, in a compatible direction, the others move with similar ease and forward momentum. When one is stuck, not functioning, or lost in debate and indecisiveness, the others are locked in place waiting for what’s next. NSPN staff specialize in thorough, respectful, and member-focused consultations and support regardless of where members are in the process. Maybe you have a new idea and are unsure how to implement it across an organization with a variety of programs serving various populations. Maybe you are months or years into an organizational change and it isn’t working out as expected and you can’t figure out why. Maybe you want to measure the impact of your efforts without sacrificing salary for staff and services. NSPN meets you where you are for as long as you need. Members taking advantage of these services recognize that the NSPN motto of “Together, we can” is not just a collection of words for the back of a brochure. Staff members live this belief in the “how” and “why” of what we do every day.

Members who have engaged in services share their thoughts.

“NSPN grant support is a life saver for us! In juggling day-to-day tasks and deadlines, it’s difficult to stay up-to-date on current federal priorities and changes to requirements. Weekly calls are great for troubleshooting issues that pop up during the writing process and are an excellent way to brainstorm ideas. The proposal review has been one of the most helpful tools for us in allowing an extra pair (or two) of experienced eyes to give feedback on your work.” Sydney, Little Rock, Arkansas

“NSPN provided the necessary support, training, and a path forward for Children’s Aid Society of Alabama to chart a path for excellence as a trauma-informed organization!” Jeff, Birmingham, Alabama

So is this supportive, member-focused approach necessary?

Isn’t it sufficient to just to jump in – after all you have been doing the work for a while? The reality is you don’t always have the luxury to consult with someone outside your team. Sometimes you feel pressure to implement new programs, establish policies in response to incidents, and ensure everyone is trained in the topic of the day. NSPN can assist in these cases as well. However, research indicates that if you pay attention to the culture and climate of your organization while doing the work that drives your mission forward – you will have better results.

“Organizations with positive culture and climate profiles have lower staff turnover, better able to sustain new programs and technologies, and have more positive attitudes toward the use of evidence-based practices (EBP/EBTs). Clients served by these organizations tend to have better outcomes, such as improved well-being and greater reductions in problem behaviors, and also report more positive attitudes about the quality of the treatments they receive. (citation: Center for Behavioral Health Research College of Social Work “Organizational Social Context Measure Overview” http://cbhr.utk.edu/osc/ (Retrieved September 20, 2018)."

The NSPN membership team invites you to contact us at support@nspnetwork.org. It doesn’t cost anything to assess how membership services align with your needs and how, together, we can ensure a successful journey from idea to impact.
SAFE PLACE NEWS

Safe Place Launches Alternative Models

In an effort to reach more young people in crisis situations, Safe Place® and NSPN have developed three alternative models of Safe Place. These program models have been developed and pilots will be launched in communities that do not currently have the capability to start a traditional Safe Place program. The alternative Safe Place models include:

**Licensed TXT 4 HELP Partner**

Safe Place TXT 4 HELP partners are valuable in helping to spread the safety net for youth in communities that do not have the capacity for more robust Safe Place services. There are many communities that do not have youth serving agencies that provide shelter and counseling. Some rural agencies have very few social services at all. Many urban areas may be heavily populated leaving limited capacity/availability to serve youth and families seeking services. TXT 4 HELP partners provide locations where youth can come in and safely use the texting system, get local information, and perhaps immediately connect to a counseling professional.

**Licensed Transit Partner**

There are several states with cities of varying sizes across the country that do not have Safe Place, but they do have a transit system. These systems can work with NSPN to license their vehicles as mobile Safe Place sites, potentially partnering with local social services agencies to help meet the needs of youth in crisis that access Safe Place in this way.

**Licensed First Responder Partner**

Regardless of the size of a community, there is one consistent community resource – first responders. Considering the history of Safe Place, first responders have played a large role in the initial and on-going success of the program. The very first Safe Place site was a fire station near the local youth shelter. Since that time, more and more fire departments and law enforcement agencies have stepped up and gotten involved, often initiating the development of a local program. Unfortunately, in some of those same communities, there are very few or no resources for youth and families in crisis. That is why the Safe Place First Responders Model was created.

NSPN’s Safe Place staff will engage in thorough consultation with each potential new model partner to determine local community resources available for youth. Assistance will also be provided to determine community-specific procedures appropriate for each Safe Place partner. These alternative Safe Place models extend the mission and vision of NSPN and carry on the purpose of the original Safe Place program.
National Safe Place Week
March 15 - 21, 2020
For Youth… Someplace To Go.
Someone To Help.
In 2019, National Safe Place Network, (NSPN) as the operator of Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC), hosted ten regional meetings for runaway and homeless youth (RHY) grantees. For RHYTTAC, these meetings are an integral part of the development of an annual work plan to provide relevant training and technical assistance for grantees. Agencies operating RHY programs are as varied as the youth seeking assistance. Rural agencies need different resource support than urban agencies. Large, multi-service organizations may have more internal training expertise while smaller agencies rely heavily on services such as eLearning on the RHYTTAC website. In addition, the populations served require targeted information. Some RHY grantees focus on all RHY and others provide focused critical services to LGBTQ youth and others specialize in services to African American males, human trafficking survivors, and pregnant and parenting youth, just to name a few.

RHYTTAC is charged with provided needed consultation, resources, technical assistance, and training regardless of the type of agency, community, and need. To do this important work, RHYTTAC partners with local, state, and national organizations and subject matter experts to ensure information provided is evidence-informed and relevant. In addition, RHYTTAC has a 25-member national advisory board with grantee representatives from each of the ten federal regions as well as national partners. NSPN is currently working with the Family and Youth Services Bureau to identify ways to continue these efforts in the future. Research and RHY grantees tell us that face-to-face meetings are important and helpful to the work of organizations serving youth.

These meetings, held in the cities of regional offices (Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Kansas City, Denver, San Francisco, and Seattle) were attended by a total of 563 RHY grantee representatives. The audiences were diverse in service numbers (from under 40 youth to more than 200 youth); in role within the agency (executive, program director, clinician, youth care worker, etc.); and in experience (on the job less than two years to more than 30 years of RHY service history.) The vast majority (97%) confirmed the need for future regional meetings to support ongoing learning and networking opportunities.

Voices From the Field

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2019 National RHY Grantees Training

In addition to the 10 regional meetings, NSPN also hosted the 2019 National RHY Grantees Training in Ft. Lauderdale, FL from November 12-14. More than 900 attendees participated in the national training which featured 62 workshops, local site visits, poster sessions, general sessions, and exhibits. NSPN is grateful to all of the attendees, volunteers, and committee members that helped the training go off seamlessly. To learn more about RHYTTAC and the national training, visit www.rhyttac.net.
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.