



Project Safe Place

Safe Place provides access to immediate help and safety for all young people in crisis. A network of thousands of public and private sites across the country extends the doors of local youth shelters by displaying Safe Place's recognizable yellow and black diamond-shaped logo. Partnering businesses and community buildings that appeal to youth – such as fast food restaurants, convenience stores, fire stations, public buses and libraries – connect young people looking for help with a local youth service agency.

How Safe Place Works

- ◆ A young person simply enters a Safe Place site and requests help.
- ◆ The site employee calls the Safe Place agency and provides a comfortable area where the youth can wait until a trained Safe Place representative arrives and meets with the youth.
- ◆ If the youth is lost or stranded and seeking help in returning home, the Safe Place agency will be contacted and arrangements made to return the youth home safely.
- ◆ If counseling or residential assistance is needed, the youth is transported to the youth service agency.
- ◆ Once at the agency, counselors will meet with the youth and determine the next steps. The family is immediately contacted and the Safe Place staff makes sure the youth and family receive the help and professional referrals they need.

Safe Place Benefits the Community

Safe Place makes it easy for youth who need help to quickly connect with the nearby service providing agency, impacting and benefiting numerous sectors of the community.

Youth and families get help when they need it

- ◆ Neighborhood businesses and community Safe Place locations offer help and safety.
- ◆ Youth seek help from Safe Place before their problem escalates, reducing or eliminating shelter stays.
- ◆ Safe Place connects youth and families to support services.

Schools collaborate with youth service agencies to raise awareness of Safe Place and youth services

- ◆ Teachers, counselors and administrators can use Safe Place as a resource for students who need help.
- ◆ Students learn about Safe Place help through classroom presentations, information cards and public service announcements.

Law enforcement connects with youth and offers help

- ◆ Safe Place helps to reduce unnecessary placements in juvenile facilities.
- ◆ School based officers provide Safe Place information to students.



Youth service agencies develop unique collaborations

- ◆ Collaboration opportunities are increased as a result of community partners.
- ◆ Safe Place connects agencies to a national, well recognized brand resulting in increased visibility.

Businesses and community locations display Safe Place signs signaling a commitment to youth safety

- ◆ Employees are encouraged to engage in volunteer opportunities.
- ◆ Business leaders and employees learn about issues of runaway and homeless youth.

Necessary Requirements and Resources to Establish Safe Place

- ◆ Crisis intervention and counseling services available 24 hours a day
- ◆ Residential services in a licensed or state approved youth sheltering facility
- ◆ The agency must provide outreach and education regarding available services.
- ◆ Strong commitment from agency leadership supporting Safe Place is key to successful implementation.
- ◆ A Safe Place position must be created or integrated into existing positions.
- ◆ Resources for staffing, outreach materials, site maintenance and overhead costs should be identified. Safe Place program budgets are primarily based on the population of young people which determines the level of outreach and related expenses.
- ◆ Staff responsible for Safe Place enter monthly statistical data in the NSP database.
- ◆ Membership fees are based on the number of Safe Place sites in the community. The initial fee for 50 or fewer sites is \$600 and increases incrementally to \$1,500 for 150 or more sites.

Safe Place



Steps to Begin a Safe Place Program

- ◆ Assess the needs of your community in regard to runaway incidences, abuse and neglect allegations, existing outreach and education efforts, the ease of youth getting to the shelter and existing collaborations with business and community organizations.
- ◆ Provide community leaders with data substantiating the need for Safe Place and data regarding the utilization of Safe Place in other communities.
- ◆ Identify the financial resources for the program.
- ◆ Communicate your program implementation plan in a "letter of intent" to National Safe Place including:



- a. Description of how your agency will coordinate the transportation of the youth from the Safe Place site to the agency.
- b. Description of the residential and counseling services offered.
- c. Listing of business and community Safe Place sites that will be considered
- d. Indication of whether volunteers will be involved and if so, description of their role
- e. Description of the service delivery area
- f. Staff who will coordinate Safe Place
- g. Proposed budget
- h. Intended start-up date

- ◆ When the implementation plan is approved, National Safe Place will forward a License Agreement granting permission to establish the program and use the Safe Place logo.
- ◆ The staff member or members responsible for Safe Place will be required to attend a two-day comprehensive National Safe Place training workshop.
- ◆ National Safe Place staff will provide on-going consultation during the implementation planning period.

What your Agency Can Expect from National Safe Place

- ◆ On-going consultation with National Safe Place staff through teleconferences, webinars and in some cases agency visits
- ◆ Quality standardized Safe Place materials
- ◆ Access to a protected area of the NSP website to download materials and learn more about projects in which other agencies are engaged
- ◆ NSP newsletters, electronic updates and funding opportunities will be provided on a regular basis
- ◆ Access to the NSP database with extensive reporting features and national and local statistical analysis will be provided
- ◆ Legal protection of the Safe Place logo
- ◆ Advocacy efforts on behalf of disconnected youth in conjunction with National Safe Place Week and throughout the year
- ◆ Regional and national corporate funding opportunities
- ◆ State, regional and national networking opportunities
- ◆ Ongoing training opportunities in pertinent areas of interest
- ◆ Professionally produced video presentations and public service announcements



For additional information visit

www.nationalsafeplace.org

or contact **National Safe Place**
502-635-3660 or toll free at
1-888-290-7233.

Building a Safety Net for Youth

Safe Place

