



# Safe Place News

Volume 1, Issue 1 • July 2011



## Project Safe Place Launches in Evansville

Evansville is the latest Indiana community to join the already existing 11 Safe Place Programs in the state.

Hillcrest Washington Youth Home is the host agency for Project Safe Place. The evolution of this project began three years ago with the work of the Homeless Youth Coalition. Its charge was to develop a 3 – 5 year plan for ending youth homelessness and to serve those at risk for homelessness.

This work had been in conjunction with the larger community wide plan to end homelessness in the Evansville-Vanderburgh County area. Project Safe Place provides


immediate help and safety for youth who may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Many youth do not know where to seek help, and as a result, remain in unsafe and chaotic situations.

Safe Place works by partnering with fast food restaurants, fire departments, convenience stores and other public entities that are kid friendly, and display the Safe Place logo which indicate they are access points to youth seeking help.

When a youth asks for help at a Safe Place site, Hillcrest immediately dispatches a counselor to meet with the youth.

If counseling or residential assistance is needed, the youth is transported to Hillcrest where staff will determine and facilitate the help needed.

Safe Place is a way to reach young people while they are still in the early stages of crisis, hopefully preventing serious problems from becoming worse. Hillcrest has years of experience working with the most vulnerable youth in our community to secure the services and supports needed for long term stability. 

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Welcome to our first *Safe Place News* newsletter. We hope that you find valuable and resourceful information in each issue as we strive to further educate our community on the importance of promoting safety for our youth .

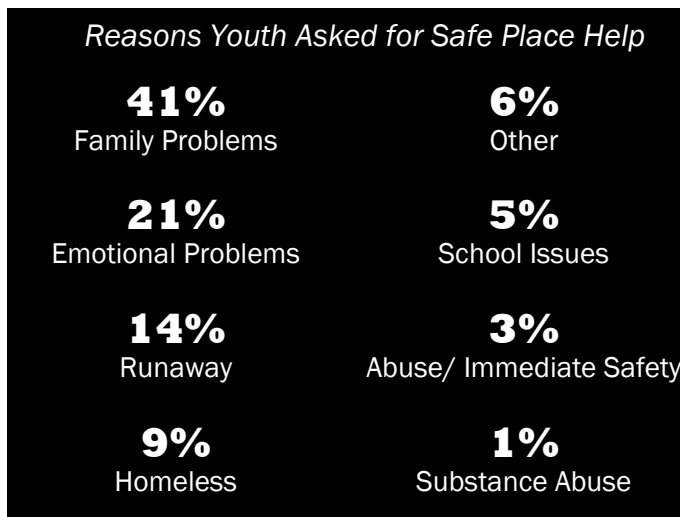
# National Safe Place 2010 Statistics

**9,001**  
Youth Helped at a Safe Place

**14,033**  
Youth Helped Via Phone

**590,704**  
Youth Reached at a School  
Presentation

**15,607**  
Safe Place Sites Available




## First Round of Safe Place Sites

The YMCA, and Boys and Girls Clubs are among the first Safe Place Sites that were introduced on March 14, 2011.

Other Safe Place sites include Youth Service Bureau, and ECHO Housing/ Lucas Place to name a few.

Additional sites are being recruited to reach our goal of 25-30 active Safe Place sites throughout the city of Evansville.

For more information about joining the Safe Place network, contact Stacy West at 812.428.0698. 



## Active Safe Place Sites

*The following is a list of our active Safe Place Sites as of June, 2011*

### **Baskin Robbins**

848 S. Green River Rd.

### **Boys & Girls Clubs**

Main – 700 Bellemeade Ave.

Fulton Sq. – 1328 Dresden St.

### **ECHO Housing Corporation**

414 Baker Ave.

### **Evansville Fire Department**

Station 1 - 750 S.E. 8th St.

Station 2 - 3601 Maxx Rd.

Station 3 - 310 N. Fourth Ave.

Station 4 - 1200 Oak Hill Rd.

Station 5 - 2413 W. Maryland St.

Station 6 - 6521 Washington Ave.

Station 7 - 1050 S. Barker Ave.

Station 8 - 2003 N. Kentucky Ave.

Station 9 - 2020 Keystone Dr.

Station 10- 120 E. Columbia St.

Station 14 - 545 S. Willow Rd.

Station 15 - 1711 S. Weinbach Ave.

Station 16 - 2801 Washington Ave.

Station 17 - 425 W. Mill Rd.

### **Evansville Print Specialists**

2217 W. Franklin St.

### **Hillcrest Washington Youth Home**

2700 W. Indiana St.

### **Holly's House**

750 North Park Dr.

### **House of Hope**

5011 Washington Ave.

### **St. Mary Catholic Church**

613 Cherry St.

### **Tri-State Food Bank**

801 E. Michigan St.

### **Willard Library**

21 First Ave.

### **YMCA**

Downtown - 222 NW 6<sup>th</sup> St.

Dunigan – 6846 Oak Grove Rd.

Caldwell – 1930 S. Garvin St.

### **Youth Service Bureau**

734 W. Delaware St.


## TXT 4 HELP

The TXT 4 Help initiative uses technology to quickly help teens connect to a Safe Place location.

Once the text message is sent, the youth will receive a return text with the nearest Safe Place location, as well as the 24 hr number to Hillcrest Washington Youth Home.

The TXT 4 Help program has the ability to reach even more youth in crisis than Safe Place has reached by traditional means. Almost 90% of

teens have regular access to a mobile phone, and 66% of those teens prefer text-messaging to calling.

In cities that don't yet have a Safe Place program, the youth will receive the number for the National Runaway Switchboard. The text service is available to youth nationwide. 

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Text the word **“SAFE”** and your current location to **69866** for immediate help



## Hillcrest Emergency Youth Shelter Services

Emergency Shelter Services are available at Hillcrest for both male and female children ages 6 through 17 years who are in need of immediate shelter and are unable to return home.


Our Emergency Shelter is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by staff whose first priority is to assist youth with basic needs such as; food, sleep, and personal hygiene in an atmosphere that allows the youth to feel safe and secure. Youth may be brought to the Emergency

Shelter through the Safe Place Program, local law enforcement officials, the Department of Child Services, case managers, court personnel, or placing agency.

Youth who are dangerous to themselves or others, in need of medical services for physical, psychiatric or detoxification from drug and alcohol use are not eligible for admission to the Emergency Shelter at Hillcrest until medically cleared. Youth stay in the Emergency Shelter only until a more

**For more information about Emergency Shelter Services at Hillcrest, please call 428.0698**

permanent living arrangement can be secured. The average length of stay in Emergency Shelter is two to three days depending on the youth's needs.

Once a youth is placed in Emergency Shelter, counselors develop an initial service plan to address the immediate needs of the youth. 

## Safe Place Site Procedures

- A youth in crisis walks into a designated Safe Place location and tells the first available employee that they need Safe Place help.
- The employee will find a quiet, comfortable place for the youth to wait while they call the Hillcrest Safe Place contact at 812.428.0698.
- The Safe Place contact will call the location back to identify the responder and an estimated time of arrival.
- Within 20-30 minutes, the Safe Place responder will arrive to talk with the youth and transport him or her to the Shelter for counseling, support, a place to stay, or other resources.
- When staff arrives, ask to see Safe Place identification.
- After staff has escorted the youth from your Safe Place site, you should record the responder's name, your name, and the date and time of the incident.

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[www.hillcrestyouthhome.org](http://www.hillcrestyouthhome.org)

Supported by a grant from



## Meet Our Staff

G. William Curtis, MS, LCSW	Executive Director
Gary Barnett, MA	Treatment Services Director
Charles Torain, MA	Residential Services Coordinator
Sue Swope, BA, LSW	Admissions Coordinator
Michael Garris	Activities Director
Ann Weedman, RN	Nurse
Brooke Winiger, MSW	Staff Social Worker
Leah Hoffherr, BA	Educational Coordinator
Stacy West, BS	Safe Place Coordinator

*Hillcrest Washington Youth Home, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that offers unique and innovative programs to support the positive development of children in our communities. Emergency shelter and residential services are available to children and adolescents, ages 6 through 18 years of age, who need out of home placement.*

## National Safe Place

### Mission

Safe Place provides access to immediate help and supportive services for all young people in crisis through a network of sites sustained by qualified agencies, training volunteers and businesses.

### Vision

Safe Place will be universally recognized and used by youth who need immediate help and safety.

### Keeping Kids Safe

Safe Place is a national outreach program that educates youth about the dangers of running away or trying to resolve difficult, threatening situations on their own. This easily replicated community initiative involves the whole community to provide safe havens and resources for youth in crisis.

[www.nationalsafeplace.org](http://www.nationalsafeplace.org)

