



# Safe Place, Safe Kids, Safe Community



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## You're Invited to Celebrate National Safe Place Week with Us!

In anticipation of National Safe Place Week (March 16-22, 2008), Youth In Need invites you to the first annual National Safe Place Week Open House on **Wednesday, March 19**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Youth In Need's Emergency Shelter. Light lunch will be served, and a presentation will occur at noon by Jim Braun, Youth In Need's President and CEO, and other key Safe Place supporters. At that time, we also will unveil the winners of the Project Safe Place poster contest. Students were asked to create designs reflecting ways to get help through Safe Place. The winning artwork will be used for marketing and promotional purposes throughout 2008. Please join us in celebrating the children, teens and families Project Safe Place assists in our region. Without the sites, donors, volunteers and supporters who believe in this program, Safe Place would not exist.

## Youth In Need is Proud to Announce Its Newest Safe Place Sites!

Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Concordia Lutheran Church  
Mid County Family YMCA  
Safe Connections  
All Coldwell Banker Gundaker offices in  
St. Charles County (7 locations)  
Pregnancy Resource Center (Thrive St. Louis)  
Faith United Church of Christ

**Thank you for believing in the  
potential of our children and families!**

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## Heart of the Matter



National Safe Place creates an annual publication entitled *Heart of the Matter*, a collection of poems, stories, and artwork by young people, volunteers, and staff who have played a part in the Safe Place story.

This anthology holds testament to the creativity, passion, and heart that teens exhibit as they attempt to overcome obstacles and create their future.

At its core, *Heart of the Matter* is about young people and their feelings. They are the reason Safe Place exists. The men and women across the country who participate in Safe Place as volunteers, staff or supporters, can be proud of their own contributions and efforts to help youth in crisis; these individuals make all the difference in the world.

Youth In Need is proud to announce that two *Heart of the Matter* entries represent Project Safe Place in the St. Louis region. One Youth In Need staff member and one youth submission have been accepted to be a part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Heart of the Matter booklet. We are proud to have such fantastic representation in this national publication!

## Safety Net For Youth

For more information about youth services issues, featuring Safe Place, visit [www.safetynetforyouth.org](http://www.safetynetforyouth.org). Safety Net for Youth was launched February 2008 as a part of National Safe Place's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The Web log (blog) seeks to further communication among advocates for at-risk youth, focusing on the youth service field, especially professionals working with runaway and homeless youth. Safety Net for Youth is an online collaboration of youth care workers, youth shelter executives, training and technical assistance providers and national partners, led by National Safe Place. Safety Net for Youth provides an open forum to build community, share information and educate the public about the issues facing America's most vulnerable youth. Youth In Need's Safe Place Coordinator Jayna Cardetti has been asked to be one of 10 individuals contributing regularly to this Safe Place blog. Feel free to visit the site and learn more about your participation in Safe Place. It is also a great avenue for questions, comments and suggestions to better serve the eastern Missouri region as well as the United States.

## New Topics Available for Student Presentations

Youth In Need is now partnering with Safe Connections, formerly known as Women's Support and Community Services, the oldest and largest locally-founded organization in St. Louis dedicated to helping domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. Our collaboration includes incorporating Safe Place presentations with Safe Connections' Project HART preventative program for teens. If you know of a group who could benefit from a free presentation about healthy relationships, abuse and other pertinent issues to young people, contact Jayna Cardetti or Angie Macy from Safe Connections (314-646- 7500, ext. 128, or [angie@safeconnections.org](mailto:angie@safeconnections.org)). For more information on the programs and services at Safe Connections, visit [www.safeconnections.org](http://www.safeconnections.org).

## Mayor's Commission on Children, Youth and Families Youth Development Task Force

In August 2007, the National League of Cities selected St. Louis City to participate in a technical assistance initiative to develop a strategic plan to re-engage disconnected teens through collaboration of local and state agencies and community-based organizations. Through this initiative, St. Louis will construct a plan to create a community where every young person is a high school graduate. To date, eight work groups have been established to develop goals, strategies and benchmarks, as well as connect existing assets to this effort. Jim Braun, Youth In Need's President and CEO, is working diligently to assist with this extremely important initiative and co-chairs the Youth Engagement work group. In January 2008, Youth In Need staff paired with staff from several other youth service agencies and 40 students to brainstorm opportunities for incentives to return to school, reasons teens dropped out, and what they liked and disliked about the public school system. The Mayor's Youth Summit was held February 9, 2008, and was an inspirational beginning to the public aspect of the Task Force. The summit was an opportunity to receive input for a "working paper" to be completed by April 2008. The paper will be accessible through the St. Louis Community Information Network at [stlouis.missouri.org](http://stlouis.missouri.org). With community support and participation, the Task Force will continue to work to ensure that every teen is a high school graduate by 2012.



**Youth In Need 24-Hour Help Line:  
636-946-3771**