

# Safe Place, Safe Kids, Safe Community



Autumn 2007

Vol. 1 – No. 4

## Youth In Need and Safe Place had a Blast!



The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce held its second annual Blast in New Town on September 22, and the event proved to be an incredible success for Safe Place outreach. The “family fun day” included game and food booths, a 5K run/family fun walk, wine and dessert tasting, balloon glow, petting zoo and car show. Youth In Need’s game booth was used to educate children, teens and families about the Safe Place program and how it can be used. Safe Place prizes included zipper pulls and Frisbee flyers. YIN also waived the registration fee for any new business that signed up to be a site at the Blast. Thank you to the nine new Safe Place sites who joined the ranks to support our community’s children in crisis!

## Youth In Need is proud to announce its newest Safe Place sites!

- Tri-County YMCA
- Faith United Methodist Church
- Kirkwood YMCA
- West County YMCA
- Curves – Elm Street
- Citizens National Bank – St. Peters
- Crider Health Center – St. Charles
- Cottleville Fire Protection District (4 sites)
- Capitol Solutions Lending
- St. Charles Christian Church
- Verlo Mattress Factory
- Premier Mortgage
- Paladin Group USA
- Lawrence Florist
- Intaglio Creative
- UMB Bank – Monticello Plaza
- UMB Bank – Regency Pkwy
- St. Charles Chamber of Commerce

## Youth In Need’s 2007 Safe Place Statistics

Total Safe Place sites	<b>233</b>
Sites gained in 2007	<b>78</b>
Kids receiving Safe Place info.	<b>5,425</b>
Kids helped through Safe Place	<b>10</b>



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Thank you for ensuring that all kids have a safe  
place to go in troubled times!

**Would you like to receive  
“Safe Place, Safe Kids,  
Safe Community”  
via email?**

If you prefer to receive your quarterly Safe Place newsletter electronically, please email me from your chosen address at [jcardetti@youthinneed.org](mailto:jcardetti@youthinneed.org) with “newsletter by email” in the subject line.

## **The Safe Place**

A poem selected for the 2006 National Safe Place “Heart of the Matter,” a collection of creative work by young people, volunteers and staff who have played a part in Safe Place.

There is this place

For homeless, troubled, and victimized teens  
You can go to this place  
If your troubles are heavy, it seems

In this place, you make friends

If you really choose to  
The friendships never end  
They will continuously support you

In this place

Your problems are lightweight  
You can put a smile on your face  
Because there’s no burden too great

This place rehabilitates you

Renovates and rejuvenates you  
It may change your attitude  
And maybe your feelings too

You can have fun

Or live a normal life if that’s the case  
You have your rights and freedom  
You’re here, in this exquisite SAFE PLACE

***This teen is one of more than 100,000 young people who have been touched by Safe Place. Your involvement ensures that many more children, just like him, have constant and immediate access to the help they need.***

## **Safe Place Client Joins Congressman in Urging Action on Behalf of Disconnected Youth in House Committee Hearing**

Tuesday July 24, 2007

### **17 year-old Rusty Booker moves committee with tale of abuse to accomplishment**

(Washington, DC) Today, at the request of Congressman John Yarmuth (KY-3), Louisvillian, Rusty Booker testified before the Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities hearing on “Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children: Perspectives on Helping the Nation’s Vulnerable Youth.” Rusty testified about his own experience with abuse, running away at the age of 12, his placement in five failed foster homes, and finally finding a path to independence with the help of Safe Place.

The two had met three weeks earlier at Congressman Yarmuth’s forum on disconnected youth, and was taken with his story. “The power of his story comes not simply from the hand that he was dealt, but in the way he played it,” Yarmuth said in his introduction of Rusty.

Rusty’s testimony tugged at the heartstrings of many in the committee room, when he told of how far he’d come—from a boy who had given up just five years ago to a young man who now plans to attain a degree in law enforcement. Even Rusty teared up near the end of his testimony as he mentioned the kind people who had helped them along the way.

“The tremendous value of Rusty’s testimony comes not just from putting a human face on an issue that we in Congress frequently characterize by statistics, but also because Rusty’s story is one of amazing strength and courage,” Yarmuth said following the hearing. “These kids just need to be given the chance and, like Rusty, can become major contributors to our communities.”

Rusty now works on outreach through Safe Place to help kids on the street find the help and resources to succeed as he did.

*Reprinted from [www.nationalsafeplace.org](http://www.nationalsafeplace.org)*