



Safe Place

Where Kids Get Help...FAST

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL SAFE PLACE PROGRAM

703.746.5400

dicm

*city mgr
orals*

QUICK GLANCE INFORMATION SHEET

10-25-11

10/25/11

• WHAT IS NATIONAL SAFE PLACE?

- It's a SAFE HAVEN, where kids get help FAST!
- 24 hour access to immediate help and support for all young people in crisis
- A network of sites and resources sustained by qualified agencies, trained volunteers and businesses.
- A Safety Net for youth that focuses on Intervention and Prevention.

• HOW WAS IT DEVELOPED?

- Developed in Louisville, KY 1983. And began to be replicated in other cities in 1987.
- Program began in response to many calls to the YMCA Shelter House from youth who did not have a way to get there after running away.

• HOW CAN A "SAFE PLACE LOCATION" BE RECOGNIZED?

- Bright yellow and black diamond-shaped sign with an adult embracing a youth sheltered by a house
- Every official Safe Place will have this sign attached to the outside of each location

• WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SAFE PLACE?

- Offers immediate help and safety
- Creates more awareness for abused, neglected and runaway youth
- Provides opportunities for city agencies and communities to partner
- Law enforcement connect with youth and offer help
- Connects our community to a national program and recognized signage of immediate help and safety.
- Displaying Safe Place signs signal a commitment to youth safety
- Provides support to already existing services

HOW DOES SAFE PLACE WORK FOR A YOUTH SEEKING HELP?

- A youth in crisis entering a location displaying a Safe Place sign and verbally or non-verbally seek help.
- The youth will wait in a quiet comfortable place while the site Safe Place Manager or the Alexandria Safe Place office is called.
- The assigned responder will take over and assess the youth to determine the next step.
- If necessary the youth is transported to a youth service agency.
- Counseling and shelter services are arranged, if needed.

• HOW MANY SAFE PLACE LOCATIONS WILL ALEXANDRIA HAVE? WHERE ARE THEY?

- Alexandria will launch 24 community Safe Place sites. 11 Recreation facilities, 9 Fire Facilities, 1 local shelters, 2 non-profit locals, Child Protective Services and Center for Alexandria's Children Office

• WHO DO I CONTACT ABOUT SAFE PLACE INFORMATION, PRESENTATIONS OR STAFF & SITE TRAININGS?

- Contact the Alexandria Safe Place Office at 703.746.5400 or Ann Redfearn, Alexandria's National Safe Place Coordinator at ann.redfearn@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.5410

ALEXANDRIA SAFE PLACE SITES

(Updated 10.25.11)



SITE NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	SITE CONTACT
Dept. of Recreation @Lee Center & Therapeutic Recreation @Lee Center	1108 Jefferson Street Alex., Va. 22314	703.746.4343 703.746.5422	Paula Dade Jami Aylor
Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center	1108 Jefferson Street Alex., Va. 22314	703.746.5550	Rodney Bates
Charles Barrett Recreation Center	1115 Martha Custis Drive Alex., Va. 22314	703.746.5551	Gertrude Harvey
Charles Houston Recreation Center	901 Wythe Street Alex., Va. 22314	703.746.5552	Bertha Coleman
Cora Kelly Recreation Center	25 Reed Avenue Alex., Va. 22305	703.746.5554	Angela Redfearn
Chinquapin Park Recreation Center	3201 King Street Alex., Va. 22302	703.746.5553	RaShawn Jackson
Mt. Vernon Recreation Center	2701 Commonwealth Avenue Alex., Va. 22301	703.746.5556	Candice Goins
Patrick Henry Recreation Center	4643 Taney Avenue Alex., Va. 22304	703.746.5557	Bryan Williams
William Ramsay Recreation Center	5650 Sanger Avenue Alex., Va. 22311	703.746.5558	Frank Johnson
Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center	5750 Sanger Avenue Alex., Va. 22311	703.746.5559	Jane Yeingst
Oswald Durant Center	1605 Cameron Street Alex., Va. 22314	703.746.5560	Demetrius Jones
Alexandria City Fire Station #201	317 Prince Street Alex., Va. 22314	703.746.5201 703.746.5200 (HDQ)	
Alexandria City Fire Station #202	213 East Windsor Avenue Alex., Va. 22301	703.746.5202 703.746.5200 (HDQ)	
Alexandria City Fire Station #203	2801 Cameron Mills Road Alex., Va. 22302	703.746.5203 703.746.5200 (HDQ)	
Alexandria City Fire Station #204	900 Second Street Alex., Va. 22314	703.746.5204 703.746.5200 (HDQ)	
Alexandria City Fire Station #205	1210 Cameron Street Alex., Va. 22302	703.746.5205 703.746.5200 (HDQ)	
Alexandria City Fire Station #206	4609 Seminary Road Alex., Va. 22304	703.746.5206 703.746.5200 (HDQ)	
Alexandria City Fire Station #207	3301 Duke Street Alex., Va. 22304	703.746.5207 703.746.5200 (HDQ)	
Alexandria City Fire Station #208	175 N. Paxton Street Alex., Va. 22304	703.746.5208 703.746.5200 (HDQ)	
Alexandria City Fire Station #209	2800 Main Line Blvd. Alex., Va. 22305	703.746.5209 703.746.5200 (HDQ)	
Community Lodgings #1	607 Notabene Drive, #1 Alexandria, VA 22305	703.739-5856	Antonio Tamariz Jim Dempsey
Community Lodgings #2	3912 Elbert Avenue Suite 108 Alexandria, VA. 22305	OPENING DECEMBER 2011	
Northern Virginia Shelter Care (Youth Facility)	NOT A WALK-IN FACILITY Referral needed. Contact 703.746.5400 for additional information		
Child Protective Services & The Center for Alexandria's Children	1900 N. Beauregard St. Suite 200 Alex., Va. 22311	703.746.5800/ 703.746.6008 703.838.4381	Jennifer Cann Giselle Pelaez

Alexandria Safe Place Office 703.746.5400

For more information about Alexandria Safe Place contact the Safe Place Office or Ann Redfearn, Recreation Teen Program Coordinator & Alexandria National Safe Place Coordinator at ann.redfearn@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.5410

Alexandria Safe Place Recreation Facilities

Step by Step Procedures 4 Youth N Crisis

IF A YOUTH WALKS IN YOUR FACILITY AND INDICATE, VERBALLY OR NON-VERBALLY, THEY NEED HELP, FOLLOW THE STEP by STEP PROCEDURES BELOW:

- 1. Ask the youth if they need assistance. REMEMBER, Youth DO NOT have to be a city resident to access Safe Place assistance! Be supportive and non-judgmental when interacting with the youth.**
- 2. Escort youth to a designated quiet space, where the youth can feel safe and comfortable. If you are not the staff who will conduct the initial interview, inform the youth your facility Recreation Safe Place Manager or representative will be right in to assist them. Notify your facility Recreation Safe Place Manager or representative, Facility Management or Manager on Duty immediately.**
- 3. The facility Recreation Safe Place Manager or representative will get a general idea of what type of crisis the youth is experiencing without going into too much detail about the specific of the situation. Based on the information obtain, determine the best of the following options for the youth:**
 - i. Resolve the situation on site and follow-up with notification to the Alexandria Safe Place Office and other agencies, if necessary.**
 - ii. Contact the Safe Place Office and wait for a representative to arrive and take over the crisis. Complete and submit a City incident report.**
 - iii. Contact Emergency Assistance (i.e. 911, Department of Community and Human Services, Child Protective Services or Mental Health), the Alexandria Safe Place office and the Recreation Services Division Senior Manager on duty. Complete and submit a City incident report.**
- 4. When contacting the Alexandria Safe Place office:**
 - i. Identify yourself and the location.**
 - ii. Provide youth's name, physical description, type of crisis and any additional information.**
 - iii. You will be notified who will come out to meet the youth.**
 - iv. Within 20 - 30 minutes a Safe Place responder should arrive at your facility.**
- 5. Let the youth know that someone will be there within 20 - 30 minutes. Have them to stay in the designated quiet space and keep them relaxed. Make sure to check on them every few minutes to reassure your support and their safety if you can't sit with them until help arrives.**

PLEASE NOTE: If the responder is an Alexandria Police Officer, inform the youth so they don't think they're in trouble when the officer arrives. Reassure the youth that the police "help us help kids!"

- 6. When NSP responder arrive, make sure you confirm and record identification with their City ID badge and business card (attach card to your report). DO NOT allow the youth to meet or go with anyone who has not been verified. Once confirmed, the responder will meet and take responsibility of the youth.**

Thanks 4 Partnering 2 "Help Us Help Kids!"

Alexandria Safe Place Non-Recreation Sites

(Alexandria Fire Department, Community Lodgings, Shelter & CAC)

Step by Step Procedures 4 Youth N Crisis

IF A YOUTH WALKS IN YOUR FACILITY AND INDICATE, VERBALLY OR NON-VERBALLY, THEY NEED HELP, FOLLOW THE STEP by STEP PROCEDURES BELOW:

1. Ask the youth if they need assistance. **REMEMBER, Youth DO NOT have to be a city resident to access Safe Place assistance! Be supportive and non-judgmental when interacting with the youth.**
2. Escort youth to a designated quiet space, where the youth can feel safe and comfortable. If you are not the staff who will conduct the initial interview, inform the youth your facility Safe Place representative will be right in to assist them.
3. The Safe Place representative will get a general idea of what type of crisis the youth is experiencing without going into too much detail about the specific of the situation. Based on the information obtain, determine the best of the following options for the youth:
 - i. Resolve the situation on site and follow-up with notification to the Alexandria Safe Place Office. Complete and submit a City/Safe Place incident report.
 - ii. Contact the Safe Place Office and wait for a representative to arrive and take over the crisis. Complete and submit a City/Safe Place incident report.
 - iii. Contact Emergency Assistance (i.e. 911, Department of Community and Human Services, Child Protective Services or Mental Health), and the Alexandria Safe Place office. Complete and submit a City /Safe Place incident report.
4. When contacting the Alexandria Safe Place office:
 - i. Identify yourself and the location.
 - ii. Provide youth's name, physical description, type of crisis and any additional information.
 - iii. You will be notified who will come out to meet the youth.
 - iv. Within 20 - 30 minutes a Safe Place responder should arrive at your facility.
5. Let the youth know that someone will be there within 20 - 30 minutes. Have them to stay in the designated quiet space and keep them relaxed. If you can't sit with them until help arrives, make sure to check on them every few minutes to reassure your support and their safety.

PLEASE NOTE: If the responder is an Alexandria Police Officer, inform the youth so they don't think they're in trouble when the officer arrives. Reassure the youth that the police "help us help kids!"

6. When NSP responder arrive, make sure you confirm and record identification with their City ID badge and business card (attach card to your report). **DO NOT** allow the youth to meet or go with anyone who has not been verified. Once confirmed, the responder will meet and take responsibility of the youth.

Thanks 4 Partnering 2 "Help Us Help Kids!"

National Safe Place Statistics



The Impact of Safe Place

Safe Place provides immediate access to help and supportive resources for young people in crisis through a network of sites sustained by youth serving agencies, businesses, and volunteers.

Initiated in 1983 by the YMCA in Louisville, KY, the success of Safe Place prompted its replication by youth service agencies across the country.

National Safe Place Statistics as of July 27, 2011

- 129,342 Youth have been connected to immediate help and safety at Safe Place locations
- 18,354 Safe Place sites are available across the country
- 137,440 Youth have received counseling by phone as a result of Safe Place school outreach
- 140 Safe Place programs are operated by youth service agencies (including ten communities with a Safe Place designated shelter)
- 40 Safe Place states
- 1,529 Communities are served by Safe Place
- 9,284,214 Students learned about Safe Place through classroom presentations

National Safe Place
2411 Bowman Avenue
Louisville, KY 40217
502.635.3660 or 888.290.7233



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Frequently Asked Safe Place Questions by Youth



What is a Safe Place?

Safe Place is a community program in which a local youth agency sets up public locations (both for-profit and non-profit) as a network of places where youth in crisis can get immediate help. The agency also operates a youth shelter for those in their pre-teen and teenage years.

How Can I Recognize a Safe Place?

Safe Place sites are identified by the bright yellow and black diamond-shaped "Safe Place" signs or decals.

What types of places are Safe Place sites?

Fire stations, libraries, fast food restaurants, YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, buses (mobile Safe Places), convenience stores, and other businesses all serve as Safe Place sites in different communities. Look for the sign!

Who should use Safe Place?

Any youth under age 18 can get help at a Safe Place site. If you are having problems at home, suffering from abuse or neglect, lost or in some dangerous situation, with a drunk or unsafe driver, or just need to talk about a problem, go to the nearest Safe Place site.

What if I go to a Safe Place site that isn't open?

Most Safe Place sites have a Safe Place decal that says, "If Closed Call" and provides a local number to contact. If the decal is not there, you can look for another Safe Place site that is open or call the local community crisis line. You could also check in the phone directory to see if Safe Place is listed.

What happens when I go to a Safe Place site?

Just tell an employee, "I need a Safe Place." The employee will find a safe and comfortable spot where you can wait while he or she contacts the local Safe Place agency. Then, the agency will send someone to talk with you.

Will I have to wait long at the Safe Place site?

A Safe Place representative or agency staff member should arrive within 20 – 30 minutes or so.

What happens when the Safe Place representative arrives?

The Safe Place representative will talk with you and help you figure out what you should do. The volunteer will be happy to take you to a youth shelter or counseling agency if you would like assistance from a certified counselor.

Will my parent(s) or guardian(s) be told where I am?

Yes. The law dictates that the agency must contact your legal guardians to let them know that you are safe. Remember that the safe representative will be there as objective third parties should your parents/guardians arrive. If you make any allegations of physical abuse, child protective services will be contacted.

Find a Safe Place near you!

Call the National Safe Place at 888.290.7233 or tTxt 4 Help 69866 with the word SAFE with the address and city where you are located, and a text message will be sent back with the name and address of the closest designated Safe Place .

No Safe Place in your city??

If you are in a city without a Safe Place Program, you can receive help by contacting the **National Runaway Switchboard (NRS)**. This is a national toll-free hotline for runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis. You can call NRS anytime at **1-800-RUNAWAY**.

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE



Txt 4 Help FAQs

What is Txt 4 Help?	A 24-hour text-for-support service for youth in crisis to get immediate access to help and safety.
How does it work?	Just text the number 69866 with the word SAFE with the address and city where you are located, and a text message will be sent back with the name and address of the closest designated Safe Place as well as the number of the youth shelter agency.
Does age matter?	The target age range for Safe Place help is 10 – 17 years. Both Safe Place and Txt 4 Help are available if a younger youth is in immediate danger.
Does it cost anything?	The service is free, but regular text messaging rates will apply to the user's phone bill.
Who should use Txt 4 Help?	Any youth under age 18 can get help via Txt 4 Help. Youth who are having problems at home, experiencing abuse or neglect, lost or in another serious situation, with a drunk or unsafe driver or just need to talk about a serious problem.
What is a Safe Place?	Safe Places are youth-friendly businesses, schools, fire stations, libraries, YMCAs and other appropriate buildings that display the distinctive yellow and black Safe Place sign. In some communities, the local transit system takes part, designating buses as mobile Safe Place sites.
What happens at the Safe Place site?	An employee will find a quiet, comfortable place for the youth to wait while they call the local Safe Place agency. A Safe Place staff member, law enforcement or an authorized City representative will arrive to talk to the young person and may take him/her to an authorized agency for additional services, support, or resources. Authorized representatives will talk with the youth to determine the best way to work through the problem. The youth's family will be contacted to confirm the youth's safety.
What if I can't get to a Safe Place site?	Youth can call the local Safe Place and they will be connected to staff for help on how to handle their crisis. If the youth is in immediate danger, the police should be contacted immediately.
What if there isn't a Safe Place in my city?	There are some cities and regions without Safe Places. If a teen uses the Txt 4 Help service and there is no close Safe Place, they'll be referred to the closest youth shelter. If there is not a shelter in the city, they will be referred to the national runaway hotline.
How can I get more information about Safe Place or the National	Contact National Safe Place at 888-290-7233 (during business hours), www.nationalsafeplace.org or email: contactus@nationalsafeplace.org Contact National Runaway Switchboard at 1.800.RUNAWAY or www.1800RUNAWAY.org

For more information about the local National Safe Place Program in Alexandria, Virginia contact:
Alexandria Safe Place Office at 703.746.5400 or email:
Ann Redfearn, Program Coordinator at anh.redfearn@alexandriava.gov

*Don't Runaway Love, you are not on your own.
Open your eyes and come back with me!*

READY TO GO HOME?

GREYHOUND® AND THE NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD CAN HELP.



**If you're a runaway between the ages of 12 and 20
and you need help returning home
or someone to talk to, call**

**1-800-RUNAWAY OR VISIT
WWW.1800RUNAWAY.ORG**



GREYHOUND



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www.theNationalRunawaySwitchboard.org



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