

Project Safe Place 2007

CITY House serves as the only local agency currently part of the National Safe Place (www.nationalsafeplace.org). National Safe Place is the first step to help for any youth in crisis or at risk. This community collaboration program, operated by youth shelters or youth serving agencies make it possible for any youth to access help at locations including fast food restaurants, convenience stores, fire stations, libraries and city buses which display the Safe Place sign. Youth can easily find help at Safe Place sites in their own neighborhood whenever they need it. Safe Place connects youth to immediate help and safety and offers supportive services to both youth and their families.

Currently our *Project Safe Place* is a cooperative effort between QuikTrip Corporation and CITY House. The program provides twenty-four hour access to counselors through a hotline number. Area QuikTrip locations serve as a safe place for children who are in danger or want someone to talk to during a crisis. When a youth enters a local QuikTrip location and seeks help from staff, they are trained to help make the youth comfortable until an outreach counselor arrives to assist them. Our Project Safe Place goal is to have 300 Safe Place locations in Collin County by 2010.

Project Safe Place: Street Outreach

Our new street outreach program will target youth who run away or are contemplating running away. The Street Outreach Program is an exciting community service designed to take resources directly to at-risk youth on the street, in community locations such as recreation centers, parks, as well as shopping malls and schools. The outreach program will provide youth access to a comprehensive array of services such as crisis intervention counseling, shelter and runaway programs. This enhanced service program will be created to help reduce sexual abuse and trauma among runaway, homeless and street youth in the Collin County area. Runaway reports have increased. Expanded prevention and outreach services are seriously needed, due to the increased number of children on the streets.

Because of its central location, and its interstate highway access, runaways often find themselves in Plano. Mobile Outreach Counselors will work from specially equipped vans, which operate on scheduled routes in Collin County after school, evenings and on weekends.

Youth often feel more comfortable talking to other youth about their troubles and concerns; for this reason trained peer counselors will be teamed with adult counselors on the vans to bridge the generation gap and help to make youth feel at ease.

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Outreach Van Counselors

Teamed with peer counselors, the Outreach Counselors will travel throughout Plano and Collin County in mobile outreach vans providing immediate services such as crisis counseling, family mediation, needs assessments and referrals. They will be equipped with resource information, food, clothing, first aid and hygiene supplies to help meet the needs of the youth and hopefully prevent them from becoming victims of the senseless and horrifying abuse they often incur on the streets.

Amount of Funds Requested: \$15,000

Way Funds will be Utilized: Project Safe Place: Street Outreach

1. Purchase two used Safe Place outreach mobil vans @ \$3500.00 each = \$7000.00
2. Purchase of materials and supplies to distribute to runaway youth.... \$7000.00
 - a. Hygiene needs
 - b. Blankets
 - c. Food
 - d. Clothing
 - e. Gift Cards for food
 - f. Bus passes
 - g. Street Survival Kits
3. Two mobile phones and mobile phone service for outreach vans \$1000.00