

Project Safe Place

Our most recent class is in the process of implementing Project Safe Place in the community, providing youth with access to crisis assistance, counseling, and shelter.

The program helps youth who have run away, been forced out of their homes, having serious family problems, are lost on the streets, or being harassed by strangers or gang members.



There are 751 Safe Places in Indiana, including libraries, fire stations, retail stores, schools, and other businesses located in 11 counties. Each place displays a "Safe Place" sign and has personnel to deal with troubled people who enter their site. The Safe Place agency then sends a staffer to the location to offer assistance or take the youth to the agency or shelter for counseling and a place to stay.

Safe Places are available to youth 24 hours a day on a non-discriminatory basis. The model of standard operating procedures was developed by the YMCA Center in Louisville.

In Indiana alone, 175 youth were diverted from receiving services from the Department of Family and Children and the Department of Corrections, saving Indiana tax payers about \$5.25 million in one year.

It is with this type of program that Leadership Harrison County is bringing to the community advantages that otherwise might not be available or even possible.