

# Proclamation

## Recognizing the week beginning March 16, 2014 as “National Safe Place Week”

Whereas the youth of the City of Columbiana will determine the future strength of our country and be the bearers of our democracy;

Whereas youth need a safe haven from various negative influences, such as child abuse, substance abuse, depression, and crime, and youth need readily available resources to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the Safe Place program is committed to protecting the youth of the City of Columbiana by offering short-term housing at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise young people seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas, designated locations where youth can get information and immediate care, Safe Place is found at businesses, such as restaurants, convenience stores, movie theaters, and community buildings such as fire stations, libraries and community centers;

Whereas the success of Safe Place is based on public/private collaborations between businesses, school systems, fire departments, law enforcement, and a network of volunteers;

Whereas the City of Columbiana needs increased numbers of community volunteers serving as mentors and positive influences on young people;

Whereas the Safe Place program must meet performance standards, relative to outreach and community relations, to receive direct federal assistance as set forth in the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.);

Whereas more than 1,500 communities in 39 states administer the Safe Place program at more than 19,000 locations;

Whereas more than 300,000 youth have been helped at a Safe Place location or received counseling by phone as a result of Safe Place information received at school;

Whereas since program inception in 1983, more than 11 million youth have been reached through National Safe Place’s Building a Safety Net for Youth campaign, familiarizing them with the Safe Place sign and providing them with information about how to seek help in order to stay safe;

Whereas increased awareness will encourage more communities to establish Safe Place locations where youth can readily access the help they need.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That I, Mayor Stencil Handley

- (1) Recognizes the week of March 16 through March 22, 2014, as “National Safe Place Week”; and
- (2) Calls upon the people of Columbiana and interested groups to--
  - (A) Promote awareness of, and volunteer involvement in, the Safe Place program; and
  - (B) Observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Signed on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014

  
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Stencil Handley, Mayor of Columbiana