



SAFE PLACE

For Youth... Someplace To Go. Someone To Help.

What is Safe Place?

The Safe Place program offered through UMOM New Day Center is an extension of the National Safe Place program. UMOM New Day Center is the lead local agency for Safe Place in Maricopa County. Safe Place provides immediate access to help and resources for teens experiencing any unsafe situation, crisis, abuse, neglect, homelessness or have ran away. Safe Place is a community resource for teens available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

How does Safe Place Work?

Any teen, 12-17 years of age, can access help through the Safe Place program. A teen can either go to a designated Safe Place site, text SAFE and their location to 4HELP (44357) (they will receive the nearest Safe Place location), or call (602) 841-5799.

A designated Safe Place youth care worker or staff member will dispatch to the Safe Place site to meet with the teen and transport the teen to our Open Hands program.

Once at our Open Hands program, the teen will be in a secure location, and receive food and shelter while we assess what resources the teen needs and connect the teen with them. In some cases, teens are reunited with their families; in other cases, teens may enter our 21-day program, which provides shelter, food, counseling, education, and activities in a structured and caring environment. In other cases, teens may receive community referrals. If a teen presents without a legal guardian, staff will contact the state authorities to assign one. A legal guardian must be found within 24 hours of a child entering the shelter.

Safe Place can impact a teen's life forever.

When a young teen's step-father became a strong influence within their family, it presented many challenges and conflict. Ultimately, the teen was kicked out of his home with no money or resources. Sleeping in parks, wondering where his next meal would come from, he did anything and everything he could to survive. The simple things, like brushing his teeth, became very important to him. One day, when he realized his toothbrush was lost, he thought he couldn't handle living on the streets anymore. The youth decided to seek help. He went to the police department and told them everything he had experienced. The police contacted a Safe Place partner site.

Through the Safe Place program and commitment of the business to be a Safe Place site, the youth received immediate help and resources, including shelter, food, and counseling. As a result of the help the Safe Place client received, he is participating in Tumbleweed's Young Adult Program, working fulltime and attending community college. The youth credits Safe Place as, "saving his life".