



Proclamation

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida

WHEREAS, National Safe Place Week brings public awareness to the Safe Place program that has helped more than 285,000 young people in crisis since the program was developed in 1983, and is an opportunity to recognize more than 19,000 businesses and thousands of volunteers nationally who give their time, resources, and energy to make our country a safer place for young people; and

WHEREAS, since 2005, more than seven 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; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Place program, operated by Family Resources, began in Manatee County more than 12 years ago and has served as many as 200 young people each year, providing a safe haven from various negative influences, such as child abuse, substance abuse, depression, and crime; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Place program is committed to protecting the young people of Manatee County with designated locations where they can get information and immediate care at businesses and community buildings such as fire stations, libraries, and community centers, and by offering short-term housing at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise young people seeking assistance and guidance; and

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.); and

WHEREAS, increased awareness will encourage more communities to establish Safe Place locations where young people can readily access the help they need; and

WHEREAS, this year, Safe Place will celebrate 30 years of helping young people in crisis and strengthening the national safety net for youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that the week of March 15-20, 2015, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

in Manatee County, Florida, and that the Board calls upon the people of Manatee County, and interested groups, to promote awareness of, and volunteer involvement in, the Safe Place program, and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

ADOPTED, with a quorum present and voting this 10th day of March 2015.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Betsy Benac, Chairman

ATTEST: ***R. B. "Chips" Shore***
Clerk of Circuit Court

By: _____
Deputy Clerk