



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MST PARTNERS WITH NATIONAL SAFE PLACE TO HELP YOUTH IN CRISIS

MONTEREY, CA, JUNE 8, 2017: Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) buses will soon become mobile Safe Place sites intended to assist youth in crisis in accessing help immediately. This joint effort is a partnership between MST and the Community Human Services' Safe Place program. Safe Place is Monterey County's only comprehensive program for runaway and homeless youth and this collaboration demonstrates MST's commitment to our community's youth.

Starting Tuesday, June 13th, most MST buses and trolleys will prominently display National Safe Place logos on the exterior and Safe Place posters inside with contact information about the program. The logo will indicate to at-risk youth that the buses and trolleys are safe places to ask for help. When a youth asks for help, transit staff will then contact Safe Place staff who are available 24 hours a day and will respond to the youth immediately to link them to food, shelter, and other emergency services as needed.

"We are excited to be working with MST to expand our outreach efforts. This project will no doubt result in getting more vulnerable youth off the streets, and for that, we're very grateful to MST," said Robin McCrae, CEO of Community Human Services.

Locally and for over 20 years, Safe Place has provided nearly 350 youth a year with everything from street outreach, survival aid, and emergency shelter to counseling, family reunification, and aftercare. Since 1969, Community Human Services has provided professional, affordable mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, and homeless youth services throughout Monterey County.

"Throughout the country, many other transit agencies have partnered with Safe Place to keep youth safe. MST is happy to help Safe Place expand its support to

youth in distress here in Monterey County. MST provides transit services throughout the Monterey Bay region, and this partnership is an opportunity to keep vulnerable members of our community safe,” said Carl Sedoryk, General Manager/CEO of MST.

MST provides bus service to residents and visitors of the greater Monterey and Salinas areas including as far south as Templeton, Paso Robles, and Big Sur and as far north as Santa Cruz and San Jose.

For information and to support CHS, visit www.chservices.org or follow Safe Place at <http://www.facebook.com/chssafeplace>.

For more information on MST, visit www.mst.org or call Monterey-Salinas Transit toll free at 1-888-MST-BUS1. Follow MST on Twitter at www.twitter.com/mst_bus for the latest service alerts.

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