Trumansburg Safe Spot

Community support for residents in need

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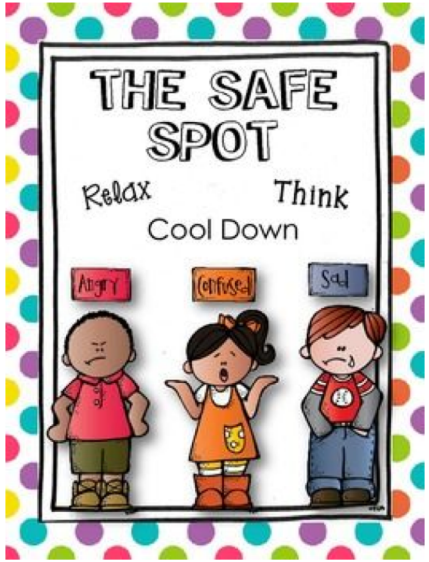

Background

Schools and communities around the nation are increasing awareness around subjects such as: running away, bullying, anxiety, drugs, homeless youth, and sexual assault.

While school districts and households can implement their own strategies for addressing these issues, there remains a period of time during each day where our youth are in between home and school. More attention is being paid to ensuring there are resources at their disposal should an incident occur during this time. Cities around the nation are adopting and marketing Safe Spot/Place programs to offer local residents a place of refuge during times of distress.

Through a partnership between local government, public safety agencies, school districts, and local businesses, communities are working to ensure residents have a place to go when they are alone and in need of support.

Trumansburg Safe Spot mission

The Trumansburg Safe Spot program (TSS) aims to offer designated locations throughout the Village to residents who are in distress or feel unsafe in their current surroundings. While these programs are typically aimed at supporting youth, the Village recognizes that situations can arise where adults require a place where they too can find help and assistance.

By clearly marking and marketing specific participating locations, a person will feel encouraged and comfortable to step inside to find needed support. The Village is proud that our community generally feels safe and secure, but we also recognize there are unfortunate situations that can arise and to date, there have not been any officially recognized locations of comfort for those feeling trapped in a vulnerable position.

Participating businesses

The Village recognizes that a successful program will feature spots that offer a variety of locations and operating hours. The following locations have signed-on to be part of the Trumansburg Safe Spot program.

- Atlas Bowl
- Gimme! Coffee
- Good to Go
- Synergy
- Little Venice

Other locations that may be approached in the future:

- Byrne Dairy
- Trumansburg Family Medicine

Coordination with authorities

The Trumansburg Safe Spot program will be a coordinated effort between the Village of Trumansburg, the Trumansburg Police Department (TPD), the Trumansburg Central School District (TCSD), and local businesses within the Village.

Participating locations will be given contact numbers for the appropriate authorities as well as guidelines for how to care for a person who has come to their spot for help.

Creating a guide for successful support

When presented with the idea of TSS, local business owners were very supportive of the concept, but also felt it would be important for each location to have documentation for how to respond to someone seeking support.

Should a senior staff member not be present, it would be crucial that every employee at least know where they can find a breakdown for how to respond to a person in need.

We sought recommendations from Tompkins County Social Services, TCSD counseling, Children and Family services, Lawyers for Children and the Tompkins County Youth Commission to create a step-by-step guide for participating businesses.

Safe Spot sign (to be placed in storefront)

*designed by Q. Cassetti

Steps for implementation

1. Meet with TPD and TCSD and share plan
2. Share plan and guidelines with first participants
3. Establish final version of signs
4. Print signs
5. Receive official agreement from participants
6. Deliver window sign and packet of info/guidelines to participants
7. Market program on website, on social media, to Village email list, and throughout the TCSD
8. Track number of uses, solicit participant feedback, and review initial procedure

Target date for program launch: Monday, September 10th