

COMMUNITY SERVICES

While presenting the SafeTalk program to fourth graders at a local school, the Kids in Crisis SafeTalk coordinator was bombarded with questions about bullying. After a few general inquiries, the conversation began to center on one schoolmate who used the bus and the playground for nonstop confrontation. One little girl began crying about the situation; when she met privately with the coordinator she shared that she didn't want to come to school some days because she was so worried about dealing with this boy. At the suggestion of Kids in Crisis, the school social worker met with kids individually and, ultimately, began a series of weekly class meetings to address the situation on a regular basis.

At Kids in Crisis, prevention is as important as treatment. Through a series of distinctive collaborations with national organizations and local community members, Kids in Crisis offers effective, age-appropriate programs that help a city, town or neighborhood tackle widespread issues. Each of these community programs aims to empower children and families to address critical concerns that have the potential to become a dangerous situation.

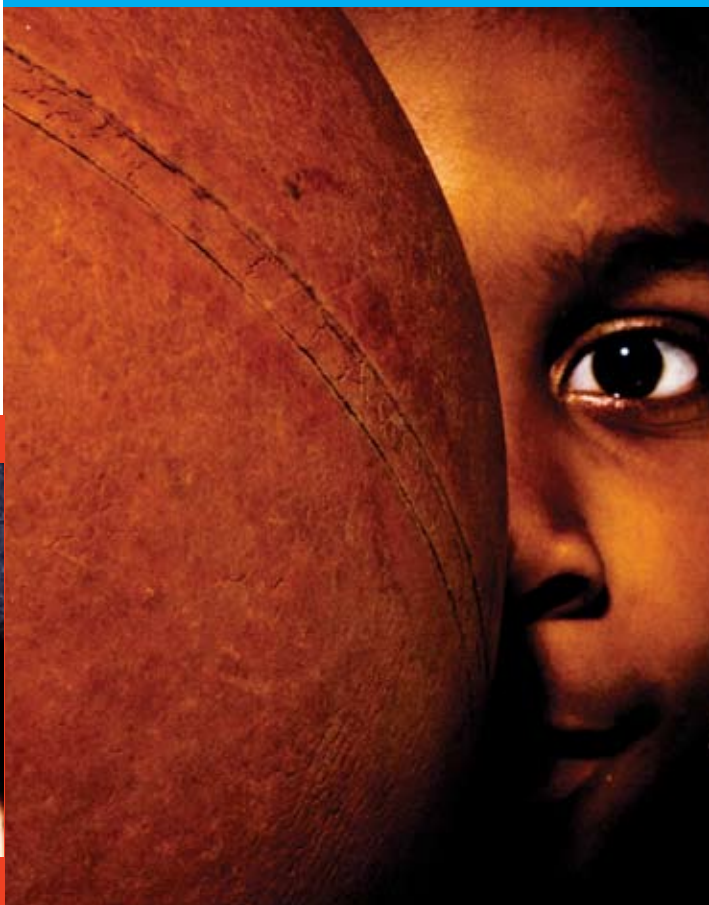
With SafeTalk, an anti-bullying, anti-violence program presented to elementary school age children, professionals, educators, parents and trained volunteers teach youngsters how to recognize dangerous behaviors, including physical, verbal and sexual abuse, bullying and "stranger danger." Pioneered by Kids in Crisis in 1999 and based on

a program developed by the National Center for Abuse and Prevention, SafeTalk has been presented to more than 43,700 students in grades K-5. This year alone, the SafeTalk team at Kids in Crisis presented 311 workshops throughout Fairfield County, educating more than 6,100 students.

Recently, the Kids in Crisis community services programs expanded to include a new national program, Safe Place. This partnership between Kids in Crisis, municipalities, local businesses, retailers and state agencies reaches out to youths who find themselves in the community when a crisis develops. Once a youth goes into a Safe Place location, visible by its bright yellow signs, Kids in Crisis counselors are immediately contacted. They assess the situation, provide face-to-face counseling and, if necessary, coordinate with outside agencies and organizations that can provide additional help. ■



- Today, there are 16,787 Safe Place sites in 40 states throughout the U.S. – and now more than 100 Fairfield County locations – where kids can get help.



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VOLUNTEER SERVICES

DONOR LISTINGS