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**Link Transit Partners with Youth Focus to Become a Safe Place® for Youth**

*The Safe Place program provides immediate help and safety for all youth in crisis*

**[Greensboro, NC] (March 4, 2025)** – Youth Focus is pleased to announce that Youth Focus will expand its Safe Place program to Alamance County. Link Transit, a service of the City of Burlington, A will become the county's first official Safe Place site and partner. All Link Transit buses will display the yellow and black Safe Place sign, which signifies immediate help and safety for youth and connects them with support and resources right away.

Link Transit is excited to be a Safe Place partner in conjunction with Youth Focus. We want the youth of the Burlington-Graham Urban Area to feel like they have a safe place to go when in trouble and now finding any one of our five Link Transit buses will create the safe space", stated John Andoh, Link Transit Manager for the City of Burlington, the administrator of Link Transit.

More than 1.5 million youth run away from home each year due to abuse, neglect, family conflicts and other issues. The Safe Place program is an option for young people who feel they have nowhere to turn and need immediate safety.

Youth Focus operates the Safe Place initiative in Guilford, Davidson, Randolph, and now Alamance Counties and partners with more than 140 individual safe place sites throughout the region. Additional Safe Place locations include all Greensboro and High Point Parks and Recreation Community Centers, UNCG Spartan Chariot Buses, Greensboro Transit Authority buses, Dairi-O's locations, YMCA locations, and other local fire stations, libraries, and businesses. More than 22,000 community businesses and organizations nationwide display the Safe Place sign, making help readily available for youth in need.

Sarah Roethlinger, Executive Director for Youth Focus, shares, "Establishing Safe Place partners in our community is of paramount importance because it provides a lifeline for youth in crisis. These partnerships ensure that there are accessible safe havens where young people can seek immediate assistance and support. By collaborating with local businesses, organizations, and institutions, we create a robust network of care that can respond swiftly to emergencies and enhances the safety and well-being of our community's most vulnerable population."

**About Youth Focus:**

Youth Focus is a non-profit organization serving youth experiencing homelessness in Guilford and surrounding counties. Youth Focus is home to four residential supportive housing programs: Act Together, a youth emergency shelter serving ages 11-17, My Sister Susan's House, a maternity home for pregnant or parenting youth ages 16-21, HEARTH Transitional Living Program, a longer-term housing program for youth exiting the foster care system, and HEARTH Beyond, a program providing rental assistance and case management. Youth Focus also operates the Safe Haven program, providing trauma-informed mental health counseling services on-site at all residential programs. Learn more about Youth Focus at [www.youthfocus.org](http://www.youthfocus.org).

**About National Safe Place Network:**

National Safe Place Network (NSPN) provides quality training, capacity building, and technical support to youth and family service organizations across the nation. NSPN operates nationally-recognized programs, including Safe Place®. More than 20,000 businesses and community locations participate as Safe Place sites – such as restaurants, convenience stores, fire stations, public buses, and libraries. These locations display the Safe Place sign and connect youth in crisis with resources and supports. Safe Place also provides a national text-for-support program, TXT 4 HELP. Teens can text the word "SAFE" to 4HELP (44357) and access options to locate the nearest Safe Place and text one-on-one with a counselor. TXT 4 HELP is available 24/7/365. Learn more about NSPN and Safe Place at [www.nspnetwork.org](http://www.nspnetwork.org) and [www.nationalsafeplace.org](http://www.nationalsafeplace.org).

**About Link Transit:**

Link Transit operates five fixed routes and a door-to-door demand response service for persons with disabilities is available in Burlington, Gibsonville, Elon, Mebane and to/from Alamance County Office Building and Courthouses and Alamance Community College, Monday through Saturday. All routes meet in Downtown Burlington at the transfer hub located at Worth Street and Webb Avenues. Link Transit is funded with local, state and federal funds. Learn more about Link Transit at [www.linktransit.org](http://www.linktransit.org) or call (336) 222.LINK.