



# 2018 Butler Awards - Spirit of Collaboration

## H.O.S.T. (Homeless Outreach Street Team)

The Homelessness Outreach Street Team (HOST) is a partnership of Integral Care, the Austin Police Department, Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Downtown Austin Community Court. HOST was launched by the Austin Police Department with significant support from Mayor Pro-Tem Kathie Tovo and many partners including the Downtown Austin Alliance, Integral Care, Austin/Travis County EMS, Downtown Austin Community Court, ECHO, Caritas, Salvation Army, Front Steps, City of Austin Office of Innovation, Austin Public Health, Trinity Center. The Team proactively outreaches to individuals experiencing homelessness in order to address immediate needs such as medical and mental health issues, and longer term needs such as housing. Each collaborator brings a unique skill set and expertise to the team.

The HOST team provides a unique, new service and changes the culture in our community. The overarching change is the proactive, preventative nature of the Team. They are out in the community engaging people in relationship and services before they reach a state of crisis or begin violating laws or ordinances. The goal is to prevent worse outcomes such as arrest, inpatient medical stays or psychiatric emergencies, all of which are expensive for the community and don't necessarily improve the outcomes of the individuals. The HOST team is bridging the gap between social services and public safety by reaching out to people that often get stuck in the revolving door of emergency shelters, justice systems and emergency services. The partnership through HOST builds upon and strengthens the existing partnerships among APD, EMS, Integral Care and Downtown Community Court.

## SAFE Alliance

The SAFE Alliance (SAFE | stop abuse for everyone) is an innovative merger of Austin Children's Shelter and SafePlace. SAFE continues to enhance the health, well-being and safety of the Austin-area community. Its mission is: *To lead in ending sexual assault and exploitation, child abuse and domestic violence through prevention, intervention and advocacy for change.*

SAFE was established to better address the interrelated crimes of child, domestic and sexual violence. Historically, victim services have been separated by the type of violence or the survivor's age, creating less-effective, artificial silos. However, research (and experience) show that survivors experience multiple forms of violence. Addressing these crimes as interrelated and multifaceted yields gains in preventing violence and building healthier families and communities. SAFE is a more coordinated, groundbreaking and new model designed to provide effective and long-term solutions. The agency provides many direct services to Austin-area youth and adults hurt by violence, plus comprehensive violence prevention programs, and advocates within the child welfare, healthcare, education and other systems, to be more responsive to survivors and achieve social justice. In April 2017-December 2017 alone, 5,417 youth and adults received direct services, 10,251 SAFeline contacts (hotline calls, texts and chats) were received, and 18,677 people received trainings and related abuse prevention education from SAFE.

SAFE is committed to never again seeing an abused child victimized as an adult; a little boy who saw his dad beat his mother and who later hurts his girlfriend; a battered woman losing custody of her children because of their father's abuse; and other examples of the epidemic of violence that is transferred person to person and generation to generation.