

The Outrage: An Educational Journey Through Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Assault

The name “The Outrage” is taken from the saying, “If you’re not outraged you’re not paying attention.” SAFEHOME believes that if people knew the statistical information about teen dating violence and sexual assault, they would be outraged.

The Outrage is an original performance piece written by staff at SAFEHOME, Inc., an agency that provides support for survivors of domestic violence in Johnson County, Kansas. It was written in the fall of 2006 for the purpose of raising awareness and educating the Johnson County community about teen dating violence and sexual assault during April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The original cast consisted of eight high school students from Shawnee Mission South High School.

Positive feedback and favorable comments from audience participants quickly created a demand for more Outrage performances. In the three years since the beginning of The Outrage, SAFEHOME has organized two other troupes of student performers at Olathe Northwest and Blue Valley Northwest High Schools, and have developed the volunteer program for the student performers, including approximately 12 hours of training, 10 hours of rehearsal, and signing The Outrage Code of Ethics.

During each performance we hand out cards to all the audience members with resource information on them. The resources we suggest for teens dealing with the issues of teen dating violence and sexual assault are:

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline - 1.866.331.9474 - Loveisrespect.org
National Sexual Assault Hotline - 1.800.656.HOPE (4673)
Choose Respect - chooserespect.org

Scripts are available for purchase so you can begin The Outrage in your own community. Or perhaps consider having an Outrage troupe come to your community. Currently there are Outrage troupes in El Dorado, Hays, McPherson, Manhattan, Salina, and Wichita, Kansas. For more information about organizing an Outrage troupe of your own please contact:

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The Cast and Their Response To “Why I joined The Outrage”

Ashu is a 15 year old Sophomore: “I joined because I felt like this is an important issue and it wasn’t being addressed to the people who need to know it most. I feel like I have directly helped raise awareness for this issue.”

Matthew is a 14 year old Freshman: “I want to educate people on teenage dating violence so they can learn and see it in the daily world.”

Mitchell is a 15 year old Sophomore: “I wanted to be in The Outrage because one of my friends was abused in a dating relationship. I want to education people on the signs of abuse so that I can protect other people. I want to change the world.”

Rudy is a 17 year old Senior: “This topic seems to be socially taboo but it shouldn’t be. The Outrage is a great way to get the message spread to the public. The more people we help, the better.”

Cathryn is a 17 year old Senior: “Dating Violence is one of the most prominent problems in our society. It is also one of the least talked about. I made the decision to participate in The Outrage after dealing with these issues myself. My hope is to deter other women from making the same mistakes as I.”

Emily is a 17 year old Senior: “I think that teen dating violence is something that so many people are affected by, but not enough people have taken a stand against it. Through education, I hope that people will realize that abuse is never the victim’s fault. Hopefully through The Outrage, I will be able to help people that are in abusive relationships.”

Emily is a 16 year old Junior: “I’m in The Outrage particularly because of one statistic - that 54% of parents don’t talk to their kids about dating violence. I joined the Outrage because I want to educate that 46% that don’t know. My goal is to get that 46% down to 0%.”

Hailey is a 17 year old Senior: “Domestic Violence and teen dating violence are topics that are not covered in our schools and I think that The Outrage is vital because it presents these topics in a tasteful manner. I feel privileged and honored to be able to present this information to my peers and other audiences.”

Andy is a 17 year old Senior: “The reason I joined The Outrage is because it gives me a way to fight back against the shortcomings of society. And I’ve found a burning passion to help the victims of domestic abuse and continue spreading the message of respect and humanity. It let’s me speak my mind even if my voice shakes.”

“This grant project is funded or partially funded by the Federal Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant through the Centers for Disease Control Prevention Grant as awarded to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and administered by Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson’s Grants Program. The options, findings, and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication program or exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Office of the Kansas Governor, and Kansas Department of Health and Environment or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention”