



**Prevention Education and Outreach Program
Sponsorship Impact Report:
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**

Program Description:

The Susan B. Anthony Project (SBAP) Prevention Education and Outreach Program provides services to children and adults living, working, and attending schools in the agency's 20-town service area in northwestern Connecticut. Programs are available for all schools, camps, businesses, health professionals, civic groups, churches, and other organizations in the 20 towns SBAP serves in northwestern Connecticut, and are tailored to address the specific needs and areas of interest of each group. The goal of the program is to educate the public about the topics of domestic and sexual abuse, to prevent future incidences of interpersonal violence, and to connect survivors with resources available to facilitate their path to safety, healing, and growth.

Numbers Served:

From July 2021 through June 2022, approximately 1,681 participants received educational programming.

Schools and camps visited include Southwest Elementary School in Torrington, Torrington Elementary School in Torrington, Torrington High School, Thomaston High School, Thomaston Center School, Black Rock School in Thomaston, Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Rising Star Summer Camp in Torrington, Winsted Parks and Rec Summer Camp, and Harwinton Parks and Rec Summer Camp.

Additional programs were provided at Wisdom House in Litchfield, Prime Time House in Torrington, Hartford public schools, Litchfield Dental Society, and Salem Covenant Church in Washington.

SBAP hosted several other public outreach events, including a Domestic Violence Awareness Month Candlelight Vigil in Torrington (approx. 70 attendees), a Sexual Assault Awareness Month Candlelight Vigil in Torrington (approx. 40 attendees), an online campaign for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, SBAP's 5th annual *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* event in Litchfield (approx. 230 registrants, and 200 event attendees), a film screening of *The Tale* at Bantam Cinema in Bantam (approx. 25 participants), and a Clothesline Project display outside our office in Torrington and at Morris Public Library, among others. (Participant statistics for these outreach events are in addition to the number of educational programming participants noted above.)

Educational Programs and Curricula:

Curricula for the Prevention Education and Outreach Programs include:

- Technology Safety and Electronic Abuse
- Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault
- Bullying and Teasing
- Domestic Violence
- Cyber Bullying and Cyber Stalking
- Dating Violence
- Conflict Resolution
- Healthy Relationships
- Gender, Power, Violence and the Media

The curricula offered are age-appropriate, interactive, and non-threatening. Each program utilizes focused strategies related to prevention according to models of success promoted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

Some examples of educational programs include:

- Safe Touch Puppet Show (PreK-2nd Grade): provides information on safe and unsafe touches, who are trusted adults, and what to do if kids have the “uh-oh” feeling from a touch.
- Conflict Resolution Puppet Show (PreK-2nd Grade): provides information to kids on how to “take five” when they are feeling angry, upset, or overwhelmed; anger rules that help them prevent conflicts from getting worse are also discussed.
- Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Youth Awareness (7th-12th Grade): presentation designed to raise awareness with participants about what trafficking is, and how to keep themselves and their friends safe.
- Sexual Assault Quiz (12th Grade): program used to discuss sexual assault and consent laws with students, to promote understanding of the topics and an open discussion.

Narrative:

With the continued interruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, SBAP’s Prevention Education and Outreach team employed a variety of methods to meet the needs of the community, including virtual education sessions. However, the team was very pleased to return in-person to many schools and organizations, and to engage face-to-face with hundreds of community members, including:

- Thomaston High School – SBAP collaborated with Safe Haven, a domestic violence and sexual assault crisis sister organization located in Waterbury, to present programming to students in grades 7– 12. Participants showed interest in learning more about healthy relationships, engaged with relevant questions, and expressed appreciation for the direct, honest conversation facilitated by the community educators.
- Litchfield Dental Society – SBAP’s Community Educator was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Litchfield Dental Society, and presented an introduction to the topics of domestic and sexual violence in our community, and specifically how dental health providers might recognize possible signs of domestic violence in their patients during oral exams, and how to connect patients with resources such as those offered by SBAP, should abuse be suspected by the provider and/or disclosed by the patient.

- Salem Covenant Church— A years-long relationship with Pastor William and the congregation resulted in SBAP’s Community Educator meeting with a dozen elementary school-aged children while church was in service for an “Acts of Love” program; at the close of the program, the congregation presented SBAP with a donation of new bedding items for residents of the agency’s emergency shelter and transitional living program.

Immediate and Future Impact:

Partnerships formed at these schools, camps, and community organizations enable SBAP to return to these locations, and others, every year, not only to reinforce lessons learned in prior years, but also to offer programming that builds on the earlier programming. This has allowed participants to develop a broader, deeper base of understanding concerning healthy relationships, bullying, sexual harassment, and conflict resolution, among other topics.

Additionally, these visits introduce SBAP to thousands of participants who may currently or in the future be in need of direct services related to domestic or sexual violence, for themselves or loved ones. Participants become familiar with services offered by the agency, and the concept of seeking support, if and when needed, is reinforced.

Donor support for our Outreach and Community Education Program makes these visits possible, positively impacting the lives of thousands of participants in a variety of ways.