Utilizing a community performance as a civic engagement project and fundraiser

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Survivors; Local Stories of Domestic Violence

A performance piece that was a fundraiser for local nonprofits that work with those that experience domestic violence.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT
CJS 342; VICTIMOLOGY
FALL 2019
The goal of this project was to raise awareness about domestic violence, as well as to inspire hope as people survive the violence perpetrated against them. Another goal was for students to work with local organizations to raise funds to assist these organizations in serving survivors within this community.
SURVIVORS; LOCAL STORIES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

*Students were given a quote from a local survivor

*Students were then asked to create a “body” in which one side reflected the victimization and the other side the healing

*Each “body” was created by the student as each student or student pair

*They then created an artistic interpretation of the survivor’s own words on each side of the body.
*The quotes the students were given came from my own research which involved interviews with sexual assault and domestic violence survivors across the state over the past 7 years.

*Local community members stood in for the survivors and read their stories (Police, local business owners, students, Dean, professional wrestler, local leaders...).
Creating the bodies that would stand in for the individuals in *Survivors*
SURVIVORS; LOCAL STORIES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- All proceeds from the event went to Neville House (local domestic violence shelter) and YWCA Stepping Stones (local rape crisis center)

- $1,008 was raised from ticket sales and also art that was sold at the event
SURVIVORS;
LOCAL STORIES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Select pictures from Survivors
Select pictures from *Survivors*
Select pictures from Survivors
Select pictures from Survivors
SURVIVORS CAST PHOTO
Students & Community members
Lessons learned

CONS
*MILLION TIMES more work than initially anticipated
*Organizing students and local community member is hard
*So much logistics
*Backlash from some in community

PROS
*Students had a once in a lifetime learning experience & loved it!
*Raised $1,008 for local charities in one night
*Raised awareness about domestic violence in the community
Tips for replication!

* Work with an organization that you know and/or is receptive to collaboration
* Be excited! If you are excited, the students will be!
* Be sure to give students clear and concise guidelines
* Plan that this will take a lot of your time and just accept it
* Be prepared if not everyone loves your idea and/or accept feedback
QUESTIONS?

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME @
SLCLEVE@ILSTU.EDU
This was a civic engagement project for CJS 342-Victimology in which students and survivors of domestic violence came together to create art. The class partnered with artists from Illinois Art Station who facilitated the creation of the art.

Students and survivors were able to work together or separately to create their own pieces of art that expressed their feelings about domestic violence, their journey and/or their current place in the process.

Students and survivors were given the choice to keep their art or to donate it to be sold at the Survivors event. Many chose to donate their art. The art was then sold for a suggested donation at the event.

All proceeds from the art sale went the YWCA Stepping Stones and Neville House.
Creating survivor art

*No survivors are pictured in these photos for protection of their privacy, only students and Dr. Clevenger
Survivor art
The Purple Lamp Project

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT
CJS 342-VICTIMOLOGY
FALL 2019
The Purple Lamp Project

Dr. Shelly Clevenger’s ISU Victimology classes, in partnership with YWCA Stepping Stone and Neville House, placed purple lamps in offices, businesses and organizations around Bloomington-Normal for display October 1 to November 1. There is a sign that is attached with local resources pertaining to domestic violence.

The goal of the lamps was to raise awareness about domestic violence for Domestic Violence Awareness Month within the community and to provide local resource information to those who may need it.

The Purple Lamp Project originated with Dr. Clevenger and the goal is for it to spread to other universities and/or communities so that they can begin instituting their own Purple Lamp Projects.

The lamps were donated by people in the community. Dr. Clevenger, her family and her students painted the lamps and delivered them to the local business, offices and organizations that were participating.
The Purple Lamp Project
The Purple Lamp Project

“Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.”

J. K. Rowling

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. If you or a loved one need assistance, please reach out to a local resource. We are all here to help.

COUNTERING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (CDV)
Mid-Central Community Action
24-hour hotline (309) 825-7970
Legal advocacy (309) 828-9321

Victims utilize CDV services by calling the hotline. A victim advocate speaks with the victim and other individuals about the services offered and resources available.

The many services provided by CDV are explained and are offered at no cost: Emergency shelter, outreach intervention services, support groups for victims and children dealing with domestic violence, parenting classes and groups, community education training, counseling and therapy.

YWCA Stop the Stigma (309) 666-2640

Information and assistance to obtain a No Contact Order following sexual assault or stalking.

Normal Police Department (309) 454-9520 & 911 (emergency)

Normal Police Department’s Domestic Violence Unit is assigned to follow-up on domestic-related cases. The DV Unit offers services including clinical investigations, safety planning, domestic violence education and finding shelter and counseling for victims. The unit also collects used cellular phones for distribution to victims of domestic violence as they are able to call 911 in an emergency.

Bloomington Police Department (309) 820-8888 & 911 (emergency)

Bloomington Police Department, as well as a Victim Advocate from Countering Domestic Violence (CDV) Neville House, work together to provide safety for victims, and to assure the appropriate services are available to victims, abusers, and couples who are experiencing relationship difficulties, as well as assist with reporting of crime.

Illinois State University Police (309) 438-8080

Assists ISU students, faculty and staff with reporting crime, referral of campus and community resources.
You can read more about Survivors and the Purple Lamp Project here:

https://news.illinoisstate.edu/2019/09/professor-organizes-normal-theater-performance-to-shine-light-on-domestic-violence/?fbclid=IwAR0XhNvtAqJR1Tzzb26ZSw1vHSaNM0lm5aU_oy5J5N3VhTnX8QsMqP7D9g
Community events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the Normal Public Library

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT
CJS 342-VICTIMOLOGY & CJS 337-SEX OFFENDERS
FALL 2019
Community events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the Normal Public Library

- Students in Victimology and Sex Offenders courses worked to create informational brochures to present at community events at the Normal Public Library as part of a civic engagement project.

- Students enrolled in Victimology worked with ISU Health Promotion and Wellness to create resources and ways to help someone in a domestic violence situation. At the event, the students along with individuals from Health Promotion and Wellness read stories and poems from survivors of domestic violence to highlight for the audience the suffering people experience, but also how they are able to get out of these situations and cope with victimization. This community event was on October 17.

- Students enrolled in Sex Offenders worked with YWCA Stepping Stones to present informational brochures about stalking and cyberstalking. At this community event, the students along with Cinnamon Porter, the Director of Education for the YWCA Stepping Stones, told audience members about what constituted stalking, how to take action against a perpetrator, the law in Illinois as well as how to help people experiencing this victimization. This community event was October 9.
Community events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the Normal Public Library
Community events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the Normal Public Library

“Nationally, 7.5 million people are stalked every year.”

Contacts
You can contact one of the following hotlines, if you do not know how to contact your local programs:
- Victoria’s Center: 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

The Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center (SPARC) assists first responders and other safety professionals with the specialized knowledge to identify and respond to cases of stalking.
Phone: (217) 353-0919
Email: info@stalkingresources.org

Stalking NO STALKING

What is Stalking?
- The act or an attempt to stalk, or harassing another in an aggressive, often terrifying and illegal manner.
- Symptoms: true, false, shadow, track down

“Nationally, 7.5 million people are stalked every year.

Approximately 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men have experienced stalking at some point in their lifetime”. (CDC, 2015)

Types of Stalking:
- The Rejected Stalker: Violent exes or persons too close, family members, close friends, etc.
- The Obsessional Stalker: Stalks or follows, etc.
- The Intimidator Stalker: Intimidates, intimidates, etc.
- The Offender Stalker: Stalks, etc.
- The Prey Stalker: Stalks, etc.

Resources
- Victoria’s Center: 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
Community events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the Normal Public Library
“What were you wearing?” display to raise awareness about sexual assault and intimate partner violence

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT
CJS 337-SEX OFFENDERS
SPRING 2019
This was a civic engagement project for the Sex Offenders course. It was on display multiple times and places over the month of April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month on the ISU campus, as well as at the International Violence Abuse and Trauma Conference in San Diego in September 2019.

The students were given a quote from a sexual assault survivor about what he or she was wearing during their attack. The students then were tasked with recreating the clothing to match the quote. There were two students within the course that recreated their own victimization. Many of the quotes were victimizations that occurred within a domestic violence scenario.

The ISU Family and Consumer Sciences Department provided the mannequins/body forms for the display. Dr. Clevenger’s students presented their experiences with this project at the ISU Women and Gender Studies Symposium.
“What were you wearing?” display

“What were you wearing?”
Recreation of clothing worn by local survivors during their sexual assault or rape

Created by Dr. Clevenger’s GIS 337 Sex Offenders course in partnership with YWCA Stepping Stones Rape Crisis Center

Clothing and survivors are not to blame.
Select photos from “What were you wearing?”
Select photos from “What were you wearing?”

- Old clothes that I used to clean in.

- "My son wore a green Power Ranger and every time he that gave me a chuckle. And it was a shirt that had a logo on it and it was just the perfect color. It was a shirt that he loved, and it was a shirt that I really loved.

- "I was in the evening after my shift. I still had on my uniform. At first, I thought that he as just messing around...playing a game. Then I realized it was not a game and became frozen with fear."

- "One of the worst things about this is that it was a shirt that I really loved from my favorite band. Now I hate that band and every time I see it, it makes me want to gag."

- Five Finger Death Punch
Select photos from “What were you wearing?”
Select photos from “What were you wearing?”
Learn more about “What were you wearing?” here:

https://news.illinoisstate.edu/2019/03/what-were-you-wearing-criminal-justice-class-challenges-victim-blaming/
Dr. Clevenger travels with students on study abroad trip to London and Paris! The students learn about sex crimes and murder in these cities and the connection between these crimes and domestic violence.
Over spring break annually, starting with the inaugural trip in 2019, Dr. Clevenger travels with students to London and Paris to learn about sex crimes and murder.

Both before and during the trip students learn about the connection between domestic violence and prostitution, sexual victimization and murder. Dr. Clevenger partners with an organization, Beyond the Streets, which works with women who are in prostitution and being sex trafficked as minors. Almost all of those women have had experiences with domestic violence. Students also learn about the victims of Jack the Ripper and how those women also experience domestic violence and violent victimizations in their home which also led them into prostitution.

In Paris, students learn more about the red light district and the selling of sex and how most of the women working the streets come from homes in which they were physically and sexually abused and/or are currently in abusive situations just like the women in London, as well as many women working in prostitution in America.
Photos from the education day with *Beyond the Streets* in London
Photos from Paris where students learned about the connection between prostitution and domestic violence and victimizations
Dr. Clevenger travels to Congress to speak at a Congressional Briefing about the ENOUGH ACT

FALL 2018
In October 2018, Dr. Clevenger traveled to Capital Hill to speak at a congressional briefing about the passage of the ENOUGH Act, which would have made revenge pornography or image based sexual assault, illegal at the Federal Level. This act, usually former intimate partners, involves them posting sexual or nude images of the victim to sites dedicated to revenge porn or sharing them on social media or through text or email.

When Dr. Clevenger returned she shared her experiences, photos and video of her speech with her classes.

They had an in class discussion about the material and the nature of revenge pornography and how it most often occurs within the confines of a domestic violence or intimate partner violence scenarios, along with other types of behaviors.

Dr. Clevenger also shared with her students some of the connections she saw in her own research with survivors of domestic violence and the victimizations they experienced with revenge pornography.
Congressional Briefing

See the Congressional Briefing speech here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wTMHoyUrhc

Read about the Congressional briefing here:
https://news.illinoisstate.edu/2018/12/criminal-justice-sciences-faculty-members-selected-to-share-research-in-washington-dc/?fbclid=IwAR11dajeEEk282AJQC03qMNICmb1KL3XCx1MF-foQ--AXtJCQ8jY2YeXiI
Creating informational brochures about child abuse and domestic violence for Bloomington Police Department

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT
CJS 342-VICTIMOLOGY
SPRING 2018
Informational brochures for Bloomington Police Department

Students worked with the Bloomington Police Department to create brochures that provided information about child abuse, child sexual abuse and also the impact of domestic violence on children.

Students presented the brochures at a roll call for Bloomington Police to officers, the Chief and some members of the State’s Attorney’s office.

Electronic copies were provided to the police as well so that the police could utilize the information and/or brochures for their own work.
Informational brochures for Bloomington Police Department
Art display to raise awareness about intimate partner violence, domestic violence & sexual assault

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT
CJS 342-VICTIMOLOGY
SPRING 2017
Art display to raise awareness

For this project, students were asked to create a piece of art to be publicly exhibited in the lobby of Milner Library on the ISU campus during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Specifically, the students were asked to manipulate a child’s toy to express a fact about sexual assault, intimate partner violence and/or child sexual abuse, its victims, their pain or suffering and/or prevention. Each creation also included a write up about subject of the piece.

Most of the pieces reflected violence committed by someone known to the victim, most often a family member or loved one, often with other types of domestic violence occurring other than sexual abuse.

There was also a reception on the final day of the display in the library in which students were able to answer questions to attendees about their art and also the subject matter portrayed within it.
Art display to raise awareness about sexual assault, domestic violence & intimate partner violence

Raising awareness of sexual and intimate partner violence

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the United States. The goal of this month is to raise awareness about sexual violence, as well as to educate communities about the realities of these crimes and focus on prevention techniques. In alignment with the goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, students in Dr. Shelly Cleveron’s CJ 342 Victimology class were asked to create a piece of art relating to this issue using a child’s toy. The piece the students created expresses a fact about sexual assault, intimate partner or family violence (as many incidents of sexual violence occur within the context of an intimate partner or familial relationships), its victims, their pain or suffering and/or prevention. With their art piece, the students also have included a brief factual statement about subject they are portraying, which will appear alongside the item in the display. The goal of this exhibit is to disseminate information about the topic while raising awareness and creating a dialogue within the community about sexual and intimate partner violence.
Art display to raise awareness about sexual assault, domestic violence & intimate partner violence
Art display to raise awareness about sexual assault, domestic violence & intimate partner violence
Art display to raise awareness about sexual assault, domestic violence & intimate partner violence
Art display to raise awareness about sexual assault, domestic violence & intimate partner violence
Photo of all students that participated in the art display after the reception
You can learn more here about the art display:


Students create informational items for YWCA Stepping Stones about stalking and cyberstalking

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT
CJS 342-VICTIMOLOGY
FALL 2017
Informational items about stalking and cyberstalking

- Students worked with YWCA Stepping Stones to create informational items about stalking and cyberstalking.

- Students presented their items to the staff and volunteers at Stepping Stones.

- The electronic version of these items were also shared with Stepping Stones so that they could edit and/or recreate these items to use in their own work pertaining to stalking and domestic violence.
Students present to YWCA Stepping Stones on stalking and cyberstalking
Dr. Clevenger travels to UN Women to speak on the connection between in person violence and cybervictimization
Dr. Clevenger was one of four academics selected to speak at a special research panel at the UN Women in New York City in December 2016.

She spoke about her research with in person violence in domestic violence and intimate partner violence situations and the connection to subsequent cybervictimizations.

Before she traveled to the UN Women, she talked to her students about what the UN Women does as an organization and also how it can impact assistance to victims. She also provided them the link to listen to the talk, as well as discussed it with the students at the final meeting of class.
Speaking at UN Women in December 2016
Students create informational items for Marcfirst about issues of child abuse and domestic violence against special needs children.
For this civic engagement project students worked with the SPICE group (a group for caretakers/parents of special needs children) at Marfirst to create information that would address issues related to child abuse, child sexual abuse and domestic violence committed against special needs children.

The students presented their informational items at a monthly SPICE group meeting with the parents and engaged in a dialogue about what their items contained as well the issues.

Electronic copies of the items were also sent to Marfirst so that they could utilize these items in the future if they wished.
Students present to the SPICE group at Marcfirst
Thank you!