SafePlace’s Expect Respect Program engages young people and adults in building safe and healthy relationships. Expect Respect has been serving Austin for more than 20 years and has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, and other organizations as an innovative and promising practice.

SafePlace is the lead partner for Start Strong Austin, a collaboration to promote healthy relationships and prevent dating abuse among 11-14-year olds. Austin is one of 11 communities nation-wide participating in the National Start Strong Initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

**Build skills for healthy relationships**
- Increase social support & safety
- Increase skills for healthy relationships
- Decrease victimization & perpetration

**Mobilize teen leaders**
- Educate and empower youth
- Implement youth-led campaigns
- Youth serve as positive role models and peer educators
- Increase active bystander behavior
- Increase awareness through media and social marketing

**Engage important adults in teens’ lives**
- Develop policies and responses to bullying, sexual harassment and dating abuse in schools
- Educate school personnel, parents and other adults
- Implement prevention curricula in school and after-school settings
- Increase early identification and access to services for vulnerable youth
- Create positive school & after-school environments
- Engage local artists and arts organizations in community-wide events that inspire youth and adults.

**School-based Support Groups**
- 24 weekly curriculum-based sessions

**Youth Leadership Programs**
- Expect Respect Youth Leadership Training and youth-led campaigns
- Changing Lives Youth Theatre Ensemble
- Summer Youth Employment Program
- Gender Matters

**School, Parents & Community Partners**
- School-wide Prevention
- Parent Outreach and Education
- Community Partnerships
- Community-wide Events

**Shared responsibility for building and supporting healthy teen relationships**

**Healthy teen relationships**

**Decreased victimization and perpetration**