Agenda

- Safe At Home Margaret’s Place Program Overview
- The Impact of Witnessing DV on Boys
- Challenges: Engaging Young Men
- Young Men As Allies: Therapeutic Intervention
- Evaluation: Results
The Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation History

• Background
• Why Margaret’s Place
• Evolution
Margaret’s Place Program Components

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Peer Leadership
- Violence Prevention Curriculum
- Faculty/Parent/Community Outreach
- School-Wide Campaigns
Impact of Witnessing DV

Behavioral, Social, Emotional

- Higher levels of aggression, anger, hostility, oppositional behavior, and disobedience; fear, anxiety, withdrawal, and depression; poor peer, sibling, and social relationships; and low self-esteem.

Cognitive, Attitudinal

- Lower cognitive functioning, poor school performance, lack of conflict resolution skills, limited problem solving skills, pro-violence attitudes, and belief in rigid gender stereotypes and male privilege.
Impact of Witnessing DV

Long-Term Problems

• Higher levels of adult depression and trauma symptoms and increased tolerance for and use of violence in adult relationships
Impact of Witnessing DV

Young Men

• Externalize
• Adolescent males attempt to intervene
• 85% of incarcerated men reported DV in homes
• More likely to become perpetrators
Focus on Boys

In the past 5 years, we have

- Worked directly with 1,674 boys in our Margaret’s Place Program
- Provided 711 boys with individual counseling
- Conducted 2,664 counseling sessions with boys
- Run 485 boys groups and workshops
Engaging Young Men: Challenges

- Disclose less frequently
- Unwilling to participate in Individual Counseling
- “That’s for girls”
- Identify with batterer
- Embrace gender stereo-types (soft, pussy, bitch, chump, weak)
- Don’t want to be identified as “bad”
- Feel Powerless “this is just the way I am... I can’t help it.”
- Media/Societal Pressures
Our attention to “males as advocates to women” in the prevention of violence is evidenced by the increased number of counseling groups and workshops geared toward boys in our Margaret’s Place Program.

![Graph showing the increase in number of counseling groups and workshops from 2007-08 to 2010-11]

- 2007-08: 25
- 2008-09: 47
- 2009-10: 161
- 2010-11: 191
Engaging Young Men: Solutions

• Provide services that are not dependent on disclosure
• Alternative interventions: Groups, Leadership Opportunities, Psycho-Education
• Offer gender neutral/balanced space/programming
• Introduce positive male role models, explore gender roles and masculinity
• Carefully explain that just because most DV/TRA is perpetrated by males does not mean most men are perpetrators
• Engage in activities to end violence against women
Young Men As Allies

• Meet them where they are at
• Engage in discussions about gender norms and power and control
• Explore role models... who are they? What qualities would you want in a role model?
• Provide psycho-education
• Invite them to participate
• Bring in relevant materials
Helper’s High
Therapeutic Significance

- Increase sense of self-worth
- Offer sense of purpose
- Develop empathy
- Identify choices increasing sense of empowerment
- Buy-In (more engaged=increased belief)
- Balance/Replacement of internalized unhealthy messages re. violence, gender, relationships
Recommended Materials

• Scenarios USA – www.scenariosusa.org
  – What’s The Real Deal About Masculinity
  – What’s The Real Deal About Gender, Power, and Relationships
• MOST – www.mencanstoprape.org
• Beyond Beats and Rhymes -
  http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/hiphop/
  http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/classroom/hiphop.html
Evaluation Results

Young men who have received services through Margaret’s Place report:

• It’s easier to talk to someone when they need help
• They now know how to use more positive coping skills
• They are making smarter choices
• They are able to control their anger a little better
It’s easier to talk to someone when I need help now, instead of keeping things to myself.

- Strongly disagree: 4%
- Disagree somewhat: 9%
- Agree somewhat: 33%
- Strongly Agree: 54%
I now use much more positive coping skills than I used to (eg. listening to music, working out, drawing, playing sports etc.)

- Strongly disagree: 4%
- Disagree somewhat: 5%
- Agree somewhat: 37%
- Strongly Agree: 54%
I am making smarter choices in my life.

- No: 4%
- Yes, a little: 31%
- Yes, a lot!: 64%
I'm able to control my anger a little better.

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<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes, a little</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, a lot!</td>
<td>47%</td>
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Selected Findings: Young Men and Women

- **74%** of students said that the MP Program helped them learn about abusive relationships (Student Survey)

- **68%** of students said that the MP Program helped them speak up when they saw abusive or harassing behavior (Student Survey)

- **76%** of teachers across all sites felt that the Margaret’s Place Program had increased respectful communication in the school (Teacher Survey)

- **91%** of students who received services indicated that, because of the counseling they received at Margaret’s Place, *they were getting along better with people at school* (SRS Survey)

- **89%** of students who received services indicated that, because of the counseling they received at Margaret’s Place, it was easier to talk to someone when they needed help, instead of keeping things to themselves (SRS Survey)
Q and A
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Articles:


Websites:
www.futureswithoutviolence.org
www.chilgrensaidssociety.org
www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/
www.childwelfare.gov