



HOUSE OF RUTH MARYLAND

Want to get your school, team, or youth group involved?

The House Of Ruth Maryland (HRM) has several options for youth groups, children, and young adults engaged in Service Learning Projects or Community Service Requirements. Our opportunities give youth the chance to raise awareness about dating violence while simultaneously supporting HRM.

HRM aims to celebrate each student's participation in the Service Learning or Community Service Project. We will schedule a "wrap-up" presentation for each group, where we can thank the group in person, present certificates, or take a photo with the group when they drop off donations (weekdays only). Simply select a project, submit the attached form, and we will contact you to schedule your wrap-up celebration!

Why is Teen Dating Violence an important issue?

In 2003, a Baltimore-based Centers for Disease Control (CDC) funded 5-year research project in which HRM was a partner, involving approximately 1,500 middle school students (the *Arts Based Initiative to End Violence Against Girls and Boys*). This study revealed that 21-34% of students reported experiencing physical violence, and 35-40% reported perpetrating physical violence, in a dating relationship ("Preventing Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence in Racial/Ethnic Minority Communities: CDC Demonstration Projects", CDC Report, 2008). Abusive adolescent dating relationships set the stage for future abusive relationships; adolescent dating violence victimization is a recognized link between witnessing violence in the family and subsequent violence in adult intimate relationships (Coker, et al., 2000).

Here's How to Get Involved:

Bake Sale: Your group can bake and sell goods with proceeds benefiting HRM! Beforehand, group members can work together to research dating violence, make informational index cards or bookmarks, and include them with each item sold! Topics may include warning signs, indicators of healthy relationships versus unhealthy relationships, what to do if you know a victim, and how to get help. See below for reference materials for research.

Special Outfit Day: This is a great chance to spend a day wearing casual clothes instead of your school uniform, or to wear PJs to school! Advertise an "Out of Uniform" or "PJs" Day, where all students can pay a small fee to wear the chosen attire. Beforehand, group members can work together to research dating violence and make informational index cards or bookmarks. Topics may include warning signs, indicators of healthy relationships versus unhealthy relationships, what to do if you know a victim, and how to get help. See below for reference materials for research. As each student pays the fee, distribute information about dating violence.

Wish List Competition: Using HRM's Wish List, select an item to collect, and encourage a competition between homerooms or grades to see who can collect the most items. When

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explaining the competition, the group can talk about dating violence and why awareness is important. (See below for reference materials for research). Hold a pizza party for the winner! For a copy of our wish list, please visit our website at www.hruth.org, click on "Give Help", scroll over to the panel on the left and click on "Wish List". Please note: we currently do not have enough storage space to accept used clothing.

Poster Contest: Your group can organize a contest to raise awareness about dating violence. Kick off the contest by holding an assembly or visiting classrooms to talk (or do skits) about dating violence and why awareness is important. To enter the poster contest, each individual or team must donate a small fee or item from HRM's Wish List. Encourage individuals or small teams to create a poster about dating violence. Topics may include warning signs, indicators of healthy relationships versus unhealthy relationships, what to do if you know a victim, and how to get help. See below for reference materials for research. The group can then judge posters based on creativity, quality of information, layout, etc., and give a prize to the winner! For a copy of our wish list, please visit our website at www.hruth.org, click on "Give Help", scroll over to the panel on the left and click on "Wish List". Please note: we currently do not have enough storage space to accept used clothing.

Letter Writing Campaign: Your group can identify their representatives, and write letters to either encourage them to vote for a particular bill, or thank them for voting for a particular bill. This is a great way for students to practice getting involved in community issues on the legislative level. For a list of bills that HRM supports or opposes, please visit www.hruth.org and click on "Legislative Alert". This option is only available during Maryland General Assembly session.

Insert Your Own Creative Idea Here!

References for Research:

Internet:

Liz Claiborne: Love Is Not Abuse <http://www.loveisnotabuse.com/index.html>

Family Violence Prevention Fund <http://www.endabuse.org/>

Teen Relationships (Designed for teens by teens) <http://www.teenrelationships.org/>

Books:

Levy, Barrie. (1993) In Love and In Danger: A teens guide to breaking free of abuse relationships. Seattle, WA: Seal Press.

To get started, please fill out the attached form, email it to knewton@hruthmd.org, fax it to 410-889-9347 Attn: Kayla Newton, or send it to the address below.



HOUSE OF RUTH
MARYLAND

Interest Form

CONTACT NAME (MUST BE ADULT AGED 18+)

NAME OF GROUP/SCHOOL

ADDRESS (WHERE THANK YOU LETTER SHOULD BE SENT)

CITY, ST, ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT, INCLUDING WHEN IT WILL TAKE PLACE:

PLEASE LIST NAMES AND AGES OF GROUP MEMBERS:

- Yes, I would like HRM to send teen-appropriate literature for distribution at my school, church, or center.
- Yes, I would like more information about the House Of Ruth Maryland's Teen Dating Violence Prevention Initiative. (The Teen Dating Violence Prevention Initiative provides domestic and dating violence prevention, education and services to adolescents who have experienced intimate violence personally or who have witnessed it at home, and to teens who are attempting to understand and maintain healthy dating relationships. The initiative also provides training to parents, school personnel and other youth services professionals on how to help teens build the knowledge and skills needed to prevent domestic violence from occurring in their lives.)
- Please add me to the HRM mailing list.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the House Of Ruth Maryland. Please submit this form by email: knewton@hruthmd.org; fax: 410-889-9347 Attn: Kayla Newton; or send it to the address below. A representative will contact you shortly.