

Safehouse Art Projects

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Fall 1998 - Spring 1999

Advisor: Gail Marcus

Mission: "To increase awareness about domestic violence, both personally and in Boulder County. To create a positive and empowering experience for Safehouse clients and children. To learn to be positive role models. To create a sustainable program at Safehouse. "

SOL Project

Safehouse Art Projects

**"...giving life to women and children's stories through
creating art with local artists."**

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Safehouse Group

Goals

1. To increase awareness about domestic violence
* *personally and in Boulder County*
2. To create a positive and empowering experience for Safehouse clients and their children
3. To learn to be positive role models
4. To create a sustainable program at Safehouse
5. To raise funds for Safehouse

Objectives

1. To participate in volunteer training for Safehouse volunteers
2. To include information "blurbs" on product
3. To work directly with clients in creating, designing, and implementing the chosen project
4. To directly involve the clients in the project
5. To train the staff about our project
6. To work with Tracy, the development and outreach director, to help assess clients' desires
7. To produce a product to sell at area businesses (cards, crafts, food...)
8. To recruit and train others who would like to carry on the program

Timeline

<i>December</i>	- written letter to corporate sponsors
<i>January</i>	- preliminary orientation with Jess - initial client contact - lay-out of project design - attend kids' playtime
<i>February</i>	- program implementation - community outreach regarding product
<i>March</i>	- product in stores before March 22
<i>April</i>	- evaluation and program history completed

SOL Project Goals

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2. To create a positive and empowering experience for Safehouse clients and children.
3. To learn to be positive role models.
4. To create a sustainable program at Safehouse.

Purpose of the Evaluation

Evaluation will be conducted as a way to reconnect with the project goals to make sure we are on the way to fulfilling them. Revisiting the goals will help to keep the group focussed and move us towards completion. Some form of evaluation is also important in documenting the project's progress to allow for sustainability.

Evaluation Design

SELF-REFLECTION WRITING

The goal of increasing awareness will be evaluated using written self-reflection. Each INVSTer will write a summary of their experience in the training portion of our project.

- How is your concept of domestic violence different than it was before training?
- Describe a personal change or paradigm shift you experienced as a result of training.
- What new knowledge have you gained?

SHARING THE EXPERIENCE

Public Awareness will be generated when the artwork is presented at an October celebration for the 25th Anniversary of Safehouse's existence in Boulder County.

Presenting to Director's Committee in May will also serve to inform the public about domestic violence.

SURVEY

By surveying the women about their experience we hope to evaluate if we achieved our goal of creating an empowering opportunity for the clients. Questions about the quality of the experience and whether the women feel they are better able to express themselves through art.

Surveys will be both oral and written. INVST students will record observations made by casually talking with the clients. Written surveys, in both Spanish and English, will also be given.

Sample questions include:

Has the experience enabled you to express yourself better? Yes/No
What aspects of this experience enabled you to express yourself?
Rate the quality of your experience.
What do you want us to know about your overall experience? How was it? What could be better?

CHECK-IN EVALUATION

After meeting with the clients, INVST students will share with one another their experience, suggestions for improvement, and any other observations made in the session.

CREATION OF REFERENCE MATERIALS

In order to leave a sustainable program at Safehouse, we will create a record of the process we took to set up art projects for clients. These reference materials will document our project but also leave a blueprint for future endeavors.

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

Following SOL project completion, INVST students will answer questions about the overall experience. We will meet without a facilitator to evaluate, give feedback, and get complete about the project.

Sample questions include:

How has your comfort level with the issue and people affected by domestic violence changed as a result of this project?
What is one essential thing you learned from this experience that you will share with others?

The Safehouse training piece was an excellent way to meet our goal of increasing personal awareness about domestic violence. It was important to me that we all participated as a SOL project group. The small size of our training group and the fact that we were all INVST students made the experience intimate and real. I felt like we didn't have to worry about what people would think if we asked ignorant questions. We had a great discussion after the film about women jailed for killing their abusers. The film's visual images and candid commentary provoked a lot of thought and discussion. Each of us shared very candidly where we were at with the issue of domestic violence and how we thought this SOL Project experience would help us gain understanding and empathy.

I think one of the major things I learned during the training was about domestic violence and children. I have heard accounts of child abuse, but I never really thought about the effects of *seeing, hearing, and living* domestic violence. It was good to be reminded of ways we need to be careful in our interactions with the kids. I had never thought that a game of chase is not good around "D.V kids," as they are called.

The training really helped me think about domestic violence in a concrete, real, existing way beyond just paper and statistics and black and white. It became flesh and blood to me, reality.

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Boulder County Safehouse

April 19, 1999

Jo Ann Fabrics & Craft

To Whom It May Concern:

In a collaborative effort with the Boulder County Safehouse and local artists, a group of five University of Colorado students has designed an arts program for Safehouse clients. The purpose is to incorporate art into Safehouse's efforts to support battered women and their children. The mission statement of the project is **to give life to women and children's stories through the creation of art by working with local artists**. Artwork from a diverse group of Safehouse clients, including children, seniors, teenagers, and Spanish-speakers, will be displayed at the Safehouse's 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Clients will work with a variety of media including paint, photography, clay, and collage. For one particular project we will be painting T-Shirts with children who have experienced or witnessed abuse. Supplies required for this project include:

- Puff Paint
- Fabric Paint
- Buttons
- Patches

Any in kind or monetary donation your store can contribute is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and your support of community service in Boulder County. Please call with any questions or concerns. Jessica Curtis, Safehouse Victim Advocate Coordinator, is available at (303) 628-4646 to further explain the project.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

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Jessica Curtis

Safehouse Victim Advocate Coordinator

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