

Project Summary Page
AJ Hunt
Digital Stories for Change- “Youth Against Abuse”

Purpose of the project “Youth Against Abuse”:

The primary objective of my initiative, "Youth Against Abuse," is to instigate transformative measures to establish additional programs akin to One Place of the Shoals. Notably, this initiative represents only the second of its kind within the state of Alabama, functioning as a comprehensive facility offering a diverse array of services to individuals who have experienced domestic violence. By consolidating medical care, legal counsel, and counseling services within a single location, One Place streamlines support mechanisms, sparing survivors the necessity of navigating multiple venues for requisite assistance.

Relationship to areas of Family and Consumer Sciences and related careers:

The "Youth Against Abuse" initiative aligns seamlessly with the principles and objectives of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) and related careers. FCS is a field that encompasses a multidisciplinary approach to understanding and improving the well-being of individuals and families. The initiative addresses issues related to domestic violence, a critical concern that directly impacts the familial unit and the overall welfare of its members.

Professionals in Family and Consumer Sciences play pivotal roles in promoting the health and resilience of families, offering expertise in areas such as counseling, resource management, human development, and community engagement. The "Youth Against Abuse" project advocates for the establishment of programs like One Place of the Shoals and contributes to the broader objectives of FCS by providing integrated support services to domestic violence survivors.

Moreover, careers within FCS, such as family life educators, counselors, and social workers, find relevance in the context of this initiative. These professionals are equipped with the skills and knowledge to address the complex challenges faced by individuals and families affected by domestic violence, working towards fostering a safe and supportive environment.

In summary, the "Youth Against Abuse" initiative intersects with Family and Consumer Sciences and related careers by actively engaging in improving family dynamics, promoting holistic well-being, and aligning with the values and expertise of professionals dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals and families.

Research/Background Information:

Incidence Rates: Domestic violence rates can vary year by year. In 2019, there were approximately 26,500 reported incidents of domestic violence in Alabama.

Victim Demographics: Domestic violence affects individuals of all backgrounds. In Alabama, as in many other places, statistics typically show that both men and women can be victims, though women are disproportionately affected.

Fatalities: Unfortunately, domestic violence can lead to fatalities. In 2019, there were many reported domestic violence-related fatalities in Alabama. It's important to note that fatality statistics can fluctuate.

Protective Orders: Protective orders are legal tools to protect individuals from further harm. In 2019, there were thousands of protective orders issued in Alabama related to domestic violence cases.

One Place of the Shoals: Only the second facility of its kind in the entire state, One Place of the Shoals, Inc. provides crisis care services to victims of domestic violence, adult sexual assault and rape, child sexual and physical abuse, and elder abuse. This ground-breaking collaborative family justice center provides a safe and comforting atmosphere with state-of-the-art facilities for victims and their children facing this difficult part of their lives.

There is NO CHARGE for any of the services that One Place offers, which includes the following:

- Counseling
- Legal Assistance
- Legal Assistance, including divorce, child custody, immigration, protection orders, and restraining orders
- Safety Planning to keep you and your children as safe as possible
- Medical Exams, if needed
- Criminal Prosecution
- Relocation
- Shelter and Emergency Housing
- Multilingual and Immigration Issues
- Spiritual Support
- Child Care Options
- Family Advocate Services
- Assistance and filing of a Petition for Protection from Abuse (PFA)

SMART Goal for "Youth Against Abuse"

Specific: I will create a presentation to raise awareness about the need for more comprehensive support centers like One Place of the Shoals in Alabama. The presentation will explain the services provided by One Place, the benefits of having such centers, and personal stories from those who have benefited from these services.

Measurable: Success will be measured by the completion of the presentation and response of local politicians.

Achievable: I will work with my teachers and school administration to schedule presentations at my school and local community centers. I will also use social media to promote the presentation.

Relevant: This goal is relevant because raising awareness about the importance of support centers for domestic violence survivors aligns with the mission of "Youth Against Abuse" and contributes to the broader objective of establishing more such centers in Alabama.

Time-bound: I will complete the presentation within the next two months, and share with local legislatures within the next four months.