



EDUCATION *about* and PREVENTION *against*
gender and relationship violence

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Fifteen Years of Work in Honor of Jana Lynne Mackey



This year marks a poignant milestone, the fifteenth anniversary of Jana's passing and the founding of *Jana's Campaign*, a pivotal event that continues to resonate throughout Kansas and beyond. *Jana's Campaign* has actively championed gender and relationship violence prevention, driven by the memory of Jana Lynne Mackey. Created from the desire to honor Jana and empower all survivors of gender-based violence, we are committed to delivering dynamic, impactful, evidence-based programs targeting domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Jana's indelible spirit serves as the heartbeat of this organization, a spirit characterized by boundless compassion, unwavering courage, and infectious joy. Her legacy propels our dedication to ending tragedies and nurturing safer, healthier communities. In honoring Jana's enduring work and spirit, we strive to cultivate a culture of respect—one where violence finds no hold and is unequivocally condemned. *Jana's Campaign* encourages each and every one of our followers to join in fostering a world where violence is not tolerated and where Jana's legacy continues to illuminate the path toward a safer, more compassionate society.

Secondary Education

Eight Years of Bystander Intervention Training at Hays High School



For the eighth consecutive year, *Jana's Campaign* conducted Bystander Intervention Training for all freshmen students at Hays High School in Hays, Kansas. Guided by Co-Founder Christie Brungardt, Executive Director Kaiti Blackburn, and Education and Prevention Specialist Megan Woodfield, the Bystander Intervention Training equips young people with the skills to safely and effectively intervene in situations where they perceive unhealthy or violent behaviors. This proactive approach enables students to spot potential risks and utilize safe and practical intervention methods.

The sessions were complemented by the involvement of *Jana's Campaign's* Youth Advisory Council members, who implemented scenario-based activities with the freshman students. These activities taught the intervention strategies of "direct, delegate, and distract." We extend our gratitude to these student leaders and the dedicated faculty at Hays High School for their unwavering support of our prevention education programs.



Members of our Youth Advisory Council received and utilized a \$100 Mini-Grant from *Jana's Campaign* for this project. The funds were allocated toward creating informational posters, T-shirts, bracelets, and embellishments for the training venue. *Jana's Campaign* advocates for all students to explore and apply for Mini-Grants to support their service projects, specifically designed to address Teen Dating Violence. Our hope is for these grants to empower students to foster tangible and positive changes within their schools and communities.

Promoting Programming at Kansas Secondary Education Conferences

Jana's Campaign seized two valuable exhibitor opportunities through our partnership with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment to implement the Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) and Athletes as Leaders (AAL) programs. At the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Coaching Clinic, Executive Director Kaiti Blackburn engaged with middle and high school coaches, highlighting the impact of the CBIM and AAL programs in fostering healthy relationships and challenging stereotypes. These evidence-based programs, offered at no cost, equip coaches to foster respect among their students and empower student-athletes while providing participating schools with a \$1,000 stipend. Additionally, at the 2023 KAHPERD Convention, Blackburn shed light on Teen Dating Violence as a pressing public health issue. The convention, hosted by the Kansas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, serves as a platform to advance student and community health, featuring local and national presenters dedicated to promoting well-being across Kansas.

Higher Education

Bystander Intervention Trainings Available for Higher Education Students and Staff



Prior to the 2023 Fall Semester, Washburn Technical University in Topeka, KS, invited *Jana's Campaign* to provide training on Gender and Relationship Violence to all faculty members. University administration felt compelled to educate their staff on this social issue that plagues college campuses. In addition to training on common warning signs, statistics, and local resources, faculty received Bystander Intervention Training to then implement within their classes, working to create a culture of respect and responsibility on campus. We commend their administration for working to create positive change on campus.

Jana's Campaign extends an invitation to higher education institutions looking to foster a culture of safety and responsibility. We offer this specialized Bystander Intervention Training for faculty and students, equipping them with essential tools to recognize and safely intervene in potentially harmful situations. Our program emphasizes proactive strategies such as 'direct, delegate, and distract,' providing practical techniques to intervene effectively. By implementing this training, your institution can cultivate a proactive and supportive environment, empowering individuals to create positive change. Contact our team at (785) 656-0324 or email us at JanasCampaign@gmail.com to begin this impactful initiative on your campus.

Midwest Campus Safety Summit Well Received



This September, *Jana's Campaign* staff traveled to Chicago, IL for the 7th Annual Midwest Campus Safety Summit. Husch Blackwell, Presenting Sponsor, shared their office space to bring together college and university personnel from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. A total of 29 colleges, universities, and organizations were represented. The ultimate goal of the Summit is to provide training and best practices to assist in transforming area colleges and universities to prevent abusive behaviors by engaging

faculty, staff, and students in promoting healthy relationships, ensuring that institutions are prepared to respond promptly and effectively to incidents and reports of violence, and ultimately to change campus norms so that campus communities hold themselves and each other to respectful and non-violent standards of interpersonal behavior.



What People Are Saying:

"I enjoyed the conference, topics, and people very much! I thought it was a great experience getting to know people in this field while learning a great deal."

"More than anything, I learned how much I don't know. I've realized how much I have to learn."

"Everything was top-notch and it was a very educational experience."

Community Education

Continued Partnership with the National Conference on Crimes Against Women



This past May, at the Conference on Crimes Against Women (CCAW) held in Dallas, TX, members of *Jana's Campaign* board and staff had the opportunity to shed light on a pressing issue: gender-based violence on rural college campuses. In their presentation titled 'A Lot Left to Learn: Gender-Based Violence on Rural College Campuses,' Christie Brungardt, Co-Founder, and Kaiti Blackburn, Executive Director, explored the often-overlooked challenges faced by colleges in rural communities. These campuses, operating with limited personnel, often wearing multiple hats, grapple with resource constraints that contrast those of their urban counterparts. Brungardt and Blackburn emphasized the necessity for a nuanced approach to responding to reports of violence, acknowledging the unique struggles, and emphasizing the imperative need for increased support, resources, and tailored strategies to better respond to and prevent gender-based violence in these communities.

Online Community Awareness & Education

On a monthly basis, the *Jana's Campaign* team provides a Purple Chair Chat online, through Facebook Live. The purpose of these "chats" is to raise awareness, engage bystanders, promote healthy and respectful relationships, and encourage the development of new social norms. The chats were developed to encourage more conversations around the issues of gender and relationship violence. Each month, we will take a deep dive into topics related to gender and relationship violence including societal aspects that contribute to gender-based violence, rape culture, the severity of this issue in our communities, teen dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, as well as why gender-biased attitudes and behaviors in society can be the leading causes of violence. In the new year, local and national experts will be invited to participate in these monthly online conversations. We encourage our followers to engage with these live (and recorded) conversations on the *Jana's Campaign* Facebook and YouTube pages.



Internal News & Fundraising Efforts

***Jana's Campaign* Welcomes New Full-Time Violence Prevention Educator**



Jana's Campaign welcomed Megan Woodfield, MS, CA, as the newest member of the team in July! Megan assumes the role of Education and Prevention Specialist, bringing a wealth of advocacy knowledge and passion to the organization. She is a nationally certified victim advocate with eight years of dedicated experience. Megan earned her Master's Degree in Psychology from Pittsburg State University, where she initiated her journey as a peer educator in "Students for Violence Prevention." Her commitment led her to serve as a Health Promotion Specialist at Texas A&M University, administering campus violence prevention efforts, managing the Green

Dot Bystander Intervention program, and guiding student advocacy groups. Megan shares, "Being part of *Jana's Campaign* allows me to honor Jana's story and impart life-saving knowledge. Presenting at the 2017 Heartland Campus Safety Summit as a student was monumental, and now, as a staff member, it feels like coming full circle." Megan's work focuses primarily on Secondary Education programming.

Expanding Impact: Introducing New Contracted Staff for Educational Programs

Jana's Campaign is excited to announce further expansion of our team through the addition of contracted employees Garrett Kahrs of Hays, KS, and John Simon, LMSW of Lenexa, KS. Garrett will concentrate on delivering impactful Man2Man presentations in middle and high schools, while John's role extends to implementing the Coaching Boys Into Men curriculum, conducting trainings, and offering Man2Man presentations across secondary, higher education, and community program areas. Their expertise and commitment further enhance our mission to educate and empower individuals at various levels, fostering healthier relationships and safer communities.

Empty Place at the Table; A Resounding Success



On October 7, *Jana's Campaign* hosted Empty Place at the Table, our annual fundraising event. The evening was an extraordinary success, raising a total of \$80,815.84. The event serves a dual purpose: raising both awareness and essential funds for our mission of preventing domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The resounding success of this year's



Empty Place at the Table is a testament to the unwavering support of the community. We extend gratitude to all who volunteered, participated, and donated to this important cause. Together, we can create a world free from gender and relationship violence.

New Addition to the Board of Directors



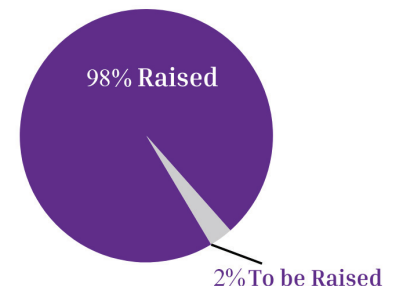
Jana's Campaign welcomed a new member to the Board of Directors this fall, Dr. Nishi Gupta. Nishi Gupta, MD/MHSA, is an internal medicine physician in Houston, TX. Her impassioned belief in the mantra, "together we can protect each other," serves as a guiding principle behind her work and advocacy efforts. Dr. Gupta openly shares her experiences as a survivor of domestic violence and sexual assault so that we can all be better prepared to help one another. By advocating for health equity and speaking openly about her own health challenges, she continually urges her peers to not just listen but truly hear their patients. Additionally, she works to empower the communities she serves to actively seek solutions to achieve optimum well-being. Nishi shares, "There is always a way to help each other. We have to want to and we have to try."

Preventing Gender & Relationship Takes All of Us

Since 2009, *Jana's Campaign* has had the opportunity to create change within communities across the Midwest. In secondary schools, we have expanded our teen dating violence prevention programming from Kansas to several surrounding states partnering with over 658 middle and high schools. Through both curricular and co-curricular programming, we have directly impacted 91,992 K-12 students. Our impact can also be felt on college campuses across the country. Through our regional Campus Safety Summits, over 3,900 college/university administrators and personnel have received training to better respond to and prevent gender and relationship violence on campus, which ripples to hundreds of thousands of college students. Finally, through our community-wide education efforts with organizations and agencies, we've affected thousands more. We believe the key to violence prevention is through comprehensive prevention education - education to create fundamental societal change.

Our success is largely attributed to the generosity of our supporters. In 2020, *Jana's Campaign* launched the *Campaign for Change*, a national fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$1,000,000 to fund our violence prevention programs. Today, we are at 98% of our goal! Will you donate to support the Campaign for Change and help us achieve our goal before the new year begins? We express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have supported this campaign. Your generous contributions play a pivotal role in enabling our team of Violence Prevention Educators to reach and impact new students and communities on a daily basis. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Campaign for
CHANGE



Stay connected with us!

