

No Use for Abuse: Raising Awareness about Abusive Dating Relationships

How much money are you requesting, and how are costs broken down in your proposal? Is this the full cost or do you have other funding sources?

We are requesting \$500

- \$360 for rubber 1,000 wristbands with a logo and the phrase “No Use for Abuse!” embossed. This is key to raising awareness and creating a buzz about the forum and the cause.
 - \$100 for food for the forum, though we will also request donations from Wegmans, Tops, Ludgates and so on. We feel having food may draw in people who might not attend otherwise; we want to reach as many teens as possible, including those who usually do not go to such workshops / forums.
 - \$40 to print some larger, slicker posters to raise awareness about the forum and the issue of dating violence and abuse at Ithaca High.
 - We do not currently have other funding, though we may look into a teacher grant from Ithaca College if we are able to find a professor who wants to work with us. That may be a long shot.
- What is your proposed project and what are your goals? How does it benefit students and/or the educational offerings of ICSD?

Written by the AVID Students from the Class of 2012 after a grant writing workshop with Jon Raimon as part of his sabbatical on community service / service learning:

We, the AVID students of 2012, propose to raise awareness about relationships abuse and dating violence. We plan to do this by first having a wristband / bracelet campaign and then having a forum at Ithaca High in late May or early June. The forum will include guest speakers, videos, music, art, and more; we are already working with experts in this area, such as the education / outreach people at the Advocacy Center. We believe that at Ithaca High, as in other schools, young people are faced with abusive relationships and do not know how to deal / get out of them. Our main goals are to a) prevent abusive relationships from beginning by educating teens about the warnings signs; and b) help teens stuck in these destructive relationships get out. We also want to get everyone involved, no matter what kind of background they come from.

This will be beneficial to the all students at Ithaca High because abusive relationships lead to teens being hurt physically, emotionally, and academically. It will also be beneficial to the whole district because this subject will finally be openly talked about and it will make people realize that this is still a huge issue in our community. Also, with the forum, we hope that people who have experienced relationship abuse will realize that

they are not alone. The forum and wristband campaign will be the beginning of educating students at Ithaca High and throughout the community about how to build healthy relationships; we partly want so many wristbands because we hope to share this information with surrounding schools, too. In addition, we may be able to sell the wristbands, in which case we could raise funds to help further the work of the Advocacy Center or similar groups at reaching teens.

Finally, in addition to raising awareness about this difficult but important topic, we will also be improving our abilities to organize, plan and make positive change in our community.

When is the funding needed? Could it be postponed if funds are not immediately available?

It would be best to have the funds very soon. We want to begin the wristband campaign soon so people are ready to jump into the forum when it happens. We want to buy the wristbands this month in case there is any delay in creating and shipping them.

Sincerely,

From the AVID Class of 2012 at Ithaca High School