

The National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Brought The Clothesline Project to Utah State University Logan Campus

By Kyndie Jorgensen

The Clothesline Project is an initiative on the Utah State University Logan campus to bring awareness to the reality of Domestic Violence through the entire month of October. This initiative has been in motion since 1996 and is currently run through the USU Inclusion Center Office.

The USU Inclusion Center website describes this project as, “a visual display of shirts with graphic messages and illustrations that have been designed by survivors of interpersonal violence or by someone who loves someone who has been killed.”

The Clothesline Project creates an outlet for survivors of domestic violence to share their stories and express the realities of these issues in our current world.

The Inclusion Center manages and organizes the project and is partnered with The Sexual Assault & Anti-Violence Information (SAAVI) Office to have student volunteers put new shirts on the display once a week.

Since 2018, the Clothesline Project has partnered with USU Dining Services to display the hanging shirts at 6 of the dining locations around campus including The Junction, Beth's Bistro, The Forum Café, Shaw's 88, Luke's Café, and the Hub. Since this partnership, the displays are up and able to be viewed the entire month of October. This allows every student the opportunity to view and experience these displays.

Sarah Timmerman is the Coordinator of the Inclusion Centers Women and Gender Program on USU campus and she is managing this project. Timmerman said, “I was lucky enough to start working on the project as an undergraduate student back in 2013, and have been involved ever since.”

The reason behind this initiative is to create awareness and show support to those experiencing interpersonal violence in any situation, current or previous.

Elise Tucker, one of the Luke's Café employees, commented on her experience after working across from one of the displays for the entire month. Tucker said, “it made me think about it more seeing it everyday. It made it on my mind because it's not something I would have usually thought about.”

Timmerman also said, “As a survivor, it serves as a reminder that I am not alone and fuels my desire to enact change. As a professional in the field, it allows me to reach and educate students on the extent and impact of interpersonal violence, in a way that I wouldn’t be able to otherwise.”

The Inclusion Center and SAAVI office hope that at least some of the students who viewed the displays are more aware of the dangers and risks of domestic violence and they hope that anyone in need knows there is help available.

To find help or information about Domestic Violence, contact the USU Inclusion Center office at (435) 797-3703 or visit the office in room 313A of the USU TSC building.