

**Student One:** FACT. Eighty-six percent of teens reported that, if abused, they would sooner tell a friend than an adult.

**Students Two and Three:** FACT: In Ohio, approximately 80 percent of violent juvenile offenders and adult prisoners come from homes in which domestic violence occurs.

**Narrator:** Domestic violence education at Marion L. Steele High School in Amherst, Ohio is a year-round initiative... and that's a fact. Meet the Teen Street Team, 42 members of the Medical Health Technology Program who use a peer-led approach to educate other students about Domestic Violence. And it works.

**Kim Haney:** Research supports that when students they're going to go to their friends for advice first.

**Narrator:** So the Teen Street Team uses the knowledge they gain in class and puts it to practical use by helping other students who may be victims of Domestic Violence.

**Kim Haney:** It comes down to empowering our students with knowledge and becoming aware of these situations. They're kinda learning how to take a different position or a different stance and to listen and to help give the proper resources and most of the resources include seeking out a trusted adult and telling the trusted adult this information."

**Student Four**FACT. Approximately one in five female high school students reports of being physically and/or sexually abused by their dating partner.

**Student Five:** FACT. Females ages 16 to 24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group.

**Narrator:** Yes, they know the facts, but the Teen Street team does more than recite statistics. They educate their peers about domestic violence through eye-catching displays and by creating special events that foster learning through direct participation, including the Silent Witness Exhibit.

**Kim Haney:** The Silent Witness basically represents each frame and each body and shadow represent a victim in Lorain County of domestic violence. We also did a project called The Empty Seat. Students typed out these Silent Witness victims' stories and put them in a frame and then throughout the high school we set frames out to represent that victim as in they are now missing from society. The goal is to get students to engage in a conversation with an adult. And we host The Clothesline Project which is for survivors of sexual assault.

**Meg McIntyre:** Amherst High School is unique in the fact that domestic violence has become a part of their every day curriculum which we don't have in any other school and this display is a big piece of their commitment.

**Narrator:** Especially at this age.... when lifelong habits....opinions... and attitudes are being formed. That's why the Teen Street Team is determined to make an impression now.... before it's too late.

**Kim Haney:** I see the high school as the last chance we have to have these young adults in one area and get them very solid, sound information.

**Meg McIntyre:** I have had students who have been on the Teen Street Team three, or four, or five years ago who still stay connected to me and have been resources and referrals

**Narrator:** The Teen Street Team takes their work seriously and they know where the first step towards ending domestic violence beings.

**Multiple Students:** It starts with me.