Seeing & Listening to Girls

A presentation by Alternatives For Girls
Outreach & Education Services’ Youth Peer Education Program’s
Youth Street Outreach Peer Educators
UM School of Social Work Fauri Memorial Conference, October 2013

ALTERNATIVES FOR GIRLS
www.alternativesforgirls.org
Alternatives For Girls

* **OURstory**

  * Started in 1987
  * A true community effort
  * Amanda (Amy) Good
  * Shelter, Girls Clubs, Outreach
• Shelter/ Transition to Independent Living
  • 27 beds for runaway/homeless girls ages 15-21
  • 15 beds for children of the adults
  • Not just beds: a program
• Community-based Prevention Services
  • After-school programming
  • Mentoring
  • Family programming
  • Youth community engagement & leadership
Outreach & Education Services

* Safe Choices Project
  * Works with girls & women in the sex industry

* Resource Center
  * Entry into AFG’s programming
  * Resource for community
  * 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EVERY DAY
Leadership, Risk-reduction, & Employment training

* Since c. 1996
* Teams around risk activity
* Currently slots for 40-44 youth
* Receive stipends for participation
* OUTCOMES
Youth Street Outreach

* Coordinator: former Peer Educator (PE)
* Detroit, Highland Park, Hamtramck, Ecorse, River Rouge, Melvindale, Redford, Dearborn, and Dearborn Heights
* Distribute: Teen Help Cards, safer sex materials, hygiene kits
* Goal: connect youth to AFG and other high-risk youth programs & services
The Youth

* Who are we

* What Street Outreach means to us

* Typical day on outreach

* My most memorable contact on outreach
Doing the survey

- First youth survey in a couple of years
- Designed with U of M guidance and youth leadership
- Goals of survey
Stories about doing the survey

* Surprises
* Challenges
* Lessons learned
Who did the survey?

100% African-American
97% Detroit residents
30% of girls had moved to Detroit at some point
Streets

- Transit Center
- West Grand Boulevard
- 7 Mile
- Woodward
- Fenkell
What kinds of programs do people want?

Number of Suggestions

- Physical: 14
- Safer Sex/...: 12
- Self-Esteem: 10
- Etiquette: 6
- College Prep: 2
- Housing: 1
- Other: 1
- Didn’t know/: 2

Number of Suggestions
### Time to hold programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Day</th>
<th>Number of girls who responded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day time</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After-school (3-6)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekends</td>
<td>1 (morning)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening (7 and after)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not answer/ did not know</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What keeps girls from programs?
“The Struggle”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Number of Marks</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Been in a gang</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced domestic violence</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ran Away</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced to leave home</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been a victim of a crime</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early parenthood</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Done drugs</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been raped</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has family problems</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been bullied</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not answer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you know anyone who has?
Has anyone ever forced you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk activity</th>
<th>Number of Girls</th>
<th>Percentage of those who answered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Run away</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoke</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drink alcohol</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join a gang</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sell drugs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave/ skip school</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fight</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strip</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have sex</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do drugs</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take nude pictures</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not answer</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opportunity to talk

* We were concerned that the girls may want to talk about some of the things that they told us.
Safety

* Number of girls who said that they felt unsafe __5__

* “A little”- what does that mean to you?
#1 Threat to Girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Pressure</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence, Men, Drug Users, HIV/ STI, Drugs, Pedophiles</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalkers, Sex Abuse, Teen Pregnancy, Sex, Sex Offenders, Gangs, and Females</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not answer</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“They all need help. They need to seek it.”
  “Easily influenced.”
  “They are rats.”
  “They need to stay off the streets.”
“They need to be safe.”
  “We should stay in school.”
  “To tell females to stop being fast, go to school, don’t do drugs.”
“Ratchet [the girls are].”
  “They need to stop having sex.”
“Ratchet [the girls are].”
  “They need help.”
“Struggles.”
  “They need help.”
“Struggles.”
  “They’re sex addicted.”
  “Need somebody to talk to.”
Final Thoughts on the Survey

* Gave girls on the street a voice into AFG and beyond

* More girls have input into AFG programming
How street outreach will change
  - Realizing that the girls are affected by more than we thought
  - Include more “dramatic” elements in workshops
  - Ask if “safe”

S.T.O.P. Activities
  - Movie
  - Workshop 12/5 for young people 16-21
  - Outreach to motels
How AFG will use the information

- Boys
- Rape is a crime
- Positive acceptance and appreciation for “female”
* Contact information
  
  * To schedule a team of PEs to come to your metro-Detroit organization to speak about a risk topic with youth, parents, social service professionals, contact Ruth Davis
    * 313-361-4000, ext. 288 or rdavis@alternativesforgirls.org

  * Please note, youth are not always available but staff can fill-in