

The legacy project assigned in our final semester as nursing students aims for nursing students to engage with the community through service. For the legacy project my group chose to work with a survivor resource center in Danville, Illinois. This center supports survivors of sexual assault by offering counseling which occurs over varying periods of time. Acutely, if a victim needs assistance with seeing a SANE nurse or support during a court case the center provides a support person. Outside of these services, this site also hosts events to raise awareness of sexual violence. We provided service to this organization by constructing posters to be used in their event "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" which showed support for the survivors in attendance, encouraged speaking up about violence, the resource center's information and more. We also cleaned the shoes that will be used for this event and sorted out the ones that need repairs. We also provided service to the organization by helping with sorting and organizing donated therapeutic play materials. The materials were donated and will be used in therapy sessions as tools for trauma therapy which has been effective in helping children. We also served this organization by putting together folders for new clients which contains information on how the organization operates as well as other helpful materials. Our service to this organization helped support the patrons and staff of the survivor resource center by completing supportive tasks.

We chose to serve at this organization because we believe in their goal to combat sexual harm which I believe is too common and often a topic that is shied away from. In my opinion, sexual violence is under-discussed. Sexual violence can affect men, women, and children and those who are affected will be impacted by it their whole life. This issue is more prevalent than most people might think. By choosing this organization to discuss as our legacy project hopefully we raise awareness. By volunteering and speaking about this organization, my hope is to call attention to this issue and make even a small difference in someone's experience.

Through volunteering at this organization, I learned many things. Sadly, one thing I learned was that most of the people attending counseling at the survivor resource center are children who have been a victim of sexual violence or were children when the violence occurred. This was not what I expected and was obviously upsetting. Also, I learned that play therapy such as sand therapy can help children and adults to find it easier to open up about their trauma in a different way. Our contact there was teaching us about this therapy and said survivors are often surprised about what they uncover in their memories and emotions during this type of therapy and it can be extremely effective. Working with this organization did not change my views on the population they served or the issue they are combating but my view on who that population is did change. I assumed it would be young adult females, not children that were the largest population effected by sexual violence.