



Refugee/Immigrant Advocacy and Support

The Center for Hope and Healing, Inc.
R1 2016-2017
\$50,000

The Center for Hope and Healing, Inc. in Lowell, MA enhanced community-based education and advocacy efforts and services for refugee, immigrants and other people of color impacted by sexual violence. The project focused on engaging community leaders in Latino, Portuguese-speaking and African communities, meeting survivors where they are by using culturally-competent approaches to train and educate. The project used community dialogues, film screenings, community gatherings and small group conversation to broach the subject of sexual violence within the context of the immigration experience.

Communities

Adults
Communities of color
Immigrant/Refugee

Men
Survivors
Women

Products

Resource: Dialogue questions for film screening

System:

Advocacy/rape crisis
Therapeutic/mental health

Level:

Local



Enhance Partnerships

Partnered with the International Institute of Lowell, a refugee resettlement agency as well as Coalition for a Better Acre, Annual African American Outing Committee, Refugee-Immigrant Coalition, African Community Center, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, and the Teen Violence Prevention Coalition.



Raise Awareness

Participated in a significant number of community events such as: International Institute of Lowell and Coalition for a Better Acre (film screening); Annual African American Outing Committee, CHH Family Festival, Film Showing: A History of Latinos in America, Lowell Community Health Center Resource Fair, citywide luncheon on The Refugee Journey, Lowell Transgender Day of Remembrance, Community Mixer breakfast, Hosted a coffee conversation on our services and bystander intervention in partnership with local Cafe owned by Venezuelan immigrant family, Hosted a coffee conversation at Oasis Brazilian Grill, New Refugee Coalition Meeting, Film showing of "Monkey Dance", Repeat showing of "Rain in a Dry Land", African Festival, Lowell Gay PRIDE, 5 shows in Khmer/English which reached over 10,000 households.



Learning Circles

Joined the newly formed New Refugee & Immigrant Coalition. Presented to the Latino Association of Lowell on sexual violence, services, resources and volunteer opportunities, as well the Violence Prevention Coalition, New Refugee Coalition Meeting, 4th Annual Take Back The Day, Refugee Coalition Meeting, as well as Victim Rights Law Center.



Educate & Train

Hosted and presented a workshop on immigrant/refugee women during Lowell Women's Week. Trained 15 staff at the International Institute of Lowell. Participated in cultural events locally presenting information about sexual violence and taboos using films (Rain in a Dry Land and Monkey Dance).



Provide Resources

Supported 15 survivors.

What's next:

CHH would be grateful and willing to provide support to anyone who is interested in working within immigrant and refugee community to address sexual violence.

Contact:

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