

Campus Silent Witness Program Event Ideas

The mission of the Silent Witness Initiative is to honor the lives tragically lost at the hands of domestic violence. At the same time, Silent Witness is unique in that it works to end violence through educational "results" programming, with the goal of zero domestic violence homicides by 2020.

On college and university campuses, Silent Witnesses can be used to help draw attention to the issues of relationship violence and sexual assault, ultimately helping college students develop the skills necessary to establish and maintain healthy relationships. Listed below are some ideas for ways to use your Silent Witnesses for ways to use your Silent Witnesses to continue this mission.

* Campus and local marches or rallies. (*Take Back the Night*).

* Men's White Ribbon Campaign.

* V-Day Events (hosting a campus performance of Eve Ensler's "*The Vagina Monologues*").

* Classroom presentations.

* RA / Student Leader training.

* Displaying Silent Witnesses in conjunction with other educational programs. Work with departments such as Orientation, Student Activities, Residence Life or Women's Studies to co-sponsor programs. Many areas may already have programs in place that the presence of the Silent Witnesses would enhance.



THE UNKNOWN WOMAN
ALL AGES / ALL RACES / ALL RELIGIONS
Three murders each day in the US

For her sake, for the sake of all women in this world
who've been killed,
whose names we'll never know -
for all the women who are beaten,
who have been beaten and brutalized,
for my sake, and yours, and for our daughters,
let us mobilize to ensure that women are protected,
and abusers are truly held accountable for their actions.
Society is responsible
for allowing domestic violence to flourish -
and for making it **STOP**.

Silent Witness Initiative

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Silent Witness Initiative

College and University Program



Creating A Silent Witness Chapter on Your Campus

Generating Support

The key to beginning your campus Silent Witness Chapter is to generate interest among your campus community. Establishing allies will provide the commitment necessary to create and maintain your Silent Witnesses.

Who would be interested in helping:

- Campus Women's Center
- Residence Life (Resident Assistants)
- Women's Studies Classes
- Public Safety or Campus Police
- Sororities and Fraternities
- Counseling Center
- Athletes
- Clubs and Organizations



RWU Student, Bill Fleming, carrying a Silent Witness during the Annual Rhode Island "March To End the Silence".

Funding

You may have the funding necessary to create your Silent Witnesses from the various groups coordinating the project. If you do not have the money, you can request donations from places such as Home Depot, Sherwin Williams, or other places that sell paint and building materials. Large companies and even small local businesses will often donate supplies if asked. Sample donation letters are available. (Be sure to check whether your school has institutional guidelines for requesting or accepting donations). Tip: Encourage a group to "sponsor" a specific Witness by donating the money to create that particular figure. Then, when the Silent Witnesses are used on your campus, that group can carry the Silent Witness. Having groups invest money, time, and their name to your project will encourage them to participate in your future SWI events.

Materials

- 1 sheet 1/2" plywood (makes 2 Witnesses)
 - Red/Black and primer paints
 - Paint rollers, brushes and rags
- 5/8" brass screws to hold shields to Witness (3 for each Witness)
 - 2" carriage bolts with nuts (4 per Witness to hold stand to figure)
- Golden shield (see next section)

Golden Shields

To identify which Witnesses need to be created, you will want to work with your local SW Coordinator. In many cases, the stories for the shields have already been written. For some, the actual wording will need to be created for the shield. Once the appropriate wording has been established for the Witness, the shield can be ordered from:

Thorough-Graphic Signs, Inc.
c/o John Cox
PO Box 1355
Lexington, KY 40588

Shields are approximately \$35 each plus shipping and handling.



Students during a vigil following the Take Back the Night March and Rally at Roger Williams University.