

“1 in 4 Day”: Xavier Students Against Sexual Assault

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Amount Requested: \$5,200.00

Abstract:

Xavier Students Against Sexual Assault (XSASA) seeks funds to eliminate the issues of rape and sexual assault on Xavier’s campus.

In early November, 2009, “1-in-4 Day” will flood the campus with teal: the national color of sexual assault awareness. Prominent members of Xavier’s faculty, staff, and student body will wear tee-shirts reading, “1-in-4 College Women Has Been the Victim of Rape,” a national statistic.¹ Buttons, flyers, and other promotional materials will detail statistics about the issues, intended to trigger conversation around campus. All Theology 111 courses will cover these topics on “1-in-4 Day.” The day will conclude with a speaker, open to the public. *“1 in 4 Day” was launched in November, 2008 and it is our intention to continue this event every year.*

On a Saturday during April 2009, XSASA will host “She Didn’t Ask For It”, a cohesive workshop about rape and sexual assault on college campuses. Dr. Carolyn Jenkins, co-founder of the Advocate Program, will host this forum. The day will begin with conversations about gender, language and gender roles, then move into relationships and dating safety.

The second half of the day will focus on rape and sexual assault, providing education on the types of rape, victim psychology, and university proceedings. The workshop will conclude with the creation of a plan of action.

¹ *The Sexual Victimization of College Women*

“At least 1 in 4 college women will be the victim of a sexual assault during her academic career.”

Hirsch, Kathleen (1990) “Fraternities of Fear: Gang Rape, Male Bonding, and the Silencing of Women.” Ms., 1(2) 52-56.

“At least 80% of all sexual assaults are committed by an acquaintance of the victim.”

Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2001.

“48.8% of college women who were victims of attacks that met the study’s definition of rape did not consider what happened to them rape.”

Bureau of Justice Stats. “Sexual Victimization of Collegiate Women” 2000, US DOJ.

Amount of funding requested: \$5200.00

“1 in 4 Day”, fall of 2009

Amount	Item
\$900.00	t-shirts*
\$200.00	flyers **
\$900.00	buttons and bracelets ***
\$200.00	drinks/snacks as “giveaways” on campus
\$2200.00	
\$2250.00	speaker fee *****
\$750.00	speaker travel and accommodations
\$3000.00	
\$5200.00	total amount requested

* These shirts will be teal, the national color of “Sexual Assault Awareness” and will read “1-in-4 College Women has been the Victim of Rape.” Prominent members of Xavier’s faculty, staff and administration will wear these shirts, dispersed evenly between departments and classes to create a strong presence.

** These flyers will range in size from a 4.25” by 5.5” to 11” by 16”, teal in color, reading various statistics and facts about rape and sexual assault. Volunteers will pass out these flyers on the Green Space and the Academic Mall. Volunteers wearing t-shirts will also have ample flyers and educational materials. Larger flyers and posters will hang in the classroom buildings and residence halls. All of these flyers will provide contact information for the Advocate Program, Xavier’s sexual assault crisis program.

*** Teal rubber bracelets will read, “The Power of X is Respect,” the slogan for the Advocate Program, and “513.745.1000,” the phone number for Campus Police which victims should call when reporting rape and sexual assault. Volunteers will pass out bracelets to students on the Green Space and Academic Mall. Buttons will also be teal and will read, “She Didn’t Ask for It,” and “It’s Not Her Fault,” combating victim blaming in sex crimes. XSASA will begin dispersing buttons the week before “1-in-4 Day”, asking various students to wear them on jackets and book bags to begin conversation.

***** Prominent speaker in the area of Sexual Assault will present in the Gallagher Theatre. Potential speakers include Brett Sokolow with “Drunk Sex or Date Rape.”

The minimal amount of funding needed for “1 in 4 Day” is \$2200.00, whereas a speaker would be forgone.

XSASS is currently NOT seeking other funding. The 2008 “1 in 4 Day” was solely self-funded by personal monies from XSASS members and members’ families.

Narrative:

How does this proposed project meet the mission and purpose of the Women of Excellence Giving Circle?

Xavier Students Against Sexual Assault came to life in the summer of 2008 with Laura Collier and Emily Vassil, both Xavier students and victims of rape. Brought together by the Advocate Program, the two women decided to take a progressive stand against crimes of rape and sexual assault. In the fall, they joined with Amanda Mock, a fellow victim, and Renée Stoeckle, research assistant and student intern at the Advocate Program, and the revolution began to enrich the lives of Xavier Students, aspiring to greatness, under the pretense of a collective voice to address and prevent sexual assault.

When Laura, Emily, and Amanda decided to come forward and report their rapes, they met adversity on a number of levels. While the Advocate Program provided overwhelming support, they found their peers and professors apathetic and unaccommodating. Further investigation revealed that, while these students, faculty, and staff cared about the women, they were ignorant toward the issue of rape and how to deal with it. XSASA considers education about these issues essential, as Xavier cannot truly accommodate victims of these crimes without an empathetic faculty, staff, and student body.

How will this further the mission of Xavier University to “engage and form students intellectually, morally and spiritually, with rigor and compassion, toward lives of solidarity, service and success?”

Xavier Students Against Sexual Assault believes the most effective way to combat the crimes of rape and sexual assault is to empower the Xavier community with education to “honor, extend and advance the legacy of Xavier and Edgecliff graduates.” This involves the education of men and women, students, faculty and staff, inside and outside of the classroom. XSASA is not a club, but rather a grassroots movement with connections in nearly every office and academic department on campus. This extensive network allows XSASA to reach all demographics within the Xavier community. Our mission involves educating victims of their rights and creating an atmosphere that deems rape and sexual assault unacceptable and intolerable.

What is the need for this grant, and how was this need identified?

The need for this grant is simple: 1) XSASS has no University funding; we dig into our own pockets or ask our families for funding, and 2) awareness of, and education about sexual assault - be it on Xavier’s campus or other universities - needs to be addressed and prevented as a result of too many cases of rape within the last twelve months.

It is very helpful if you can describe the expected impact of your project, if funded. Specifically if you can quantify the number of people who will be impacted, short and long term, or other such quantifiable measurements.

The 2008 “1 in 4 Day” was a great success. Not only do we feel we raised campus awareness of sexual assault (which is arguably immeasurable), but we increased the number of XSASS members (sadly), we saw a November rape be reported TO XU Campus Police and is now in the process of Xavier’s Disciplinary Proceedings, and finally we are awaiting for an August 2008 rape to go before the grand jury in the City of Cincinnati, Criminal Courts. Can we quantify

people who will be impacted by “1 in 4 Day?” No. But, we expect the impact of our message to be far and reaching in the months and years to come...to impact the young life of a soon-to-be Musketeer, whomever they might be...and who will join the University campus community in 2013(?) and will need the knowledge and empowerment that we are trying to instill: “...to shape the future of the University and create a place where women are valued and empowered to make a difference.”

If your project is funded, how will the WOX Giving Circle be recognized as having played a role in the success/completion of your project?

We will welcome and gladly promote the WOX Giving Circle as the funding source! To have the support of WOX on this endeavor - which is so very important to us - would be stupendous! What a message this would send to the University and the community! We would be thrilled beyond belief! And of course, we would welcome and maintain a close, collaborative effort in the marketing, promotion and planning of the “1 in 4 Day” event.

How will you measure the success of your project, if funded?

XSASS are able to measure our success and the effectiveness of our efforts by bench marking various items including 1) the increase in XSASS membership, 2) the increase in the report of sexual assault to XU Campus Police and to the Advocate Program, 3) the resulting increase in the successful execution of XU disciplinary procedures, as well as City criminal procedures, and finally, 3) the eventual decrease in sexual assault incidents, as reported to XU Campus Police.

Would you be willing to be a speaker to present your project results, if funded?

Absolutely, of course! Please. Enough said.