
1. COVER PAGE

Proposal for Xavier University's
Women of Excellence Grant

“1 IN 4 DAY”

SUBMITTED BY:

XAVIER STUDENTS AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

Emily J. Vassil, President, Jr.	President, Co-Founder
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Caitlin M. Pinciotti, Jr.	Co-Secretary
Rachel M. Thaw, Jr.	Treasurer

SIGNATURES:

Dr. Luther Smith, Dean of Students

Dr. Carolyn Jenkins, XSASA Advisor



2. FACE PAGE

TITLE OF PROJECT: "1 in 4 Day"

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$6,500.00

BRIEF ABSTRACT:

"1 in 4 Day" seeks to raise awareness of sexual violence on Xavier's campus; to educate students, faculty and staff; to continue to show support of University officials as they examine and revise current practices, policies and procedures; and most importantly to empower students, faculty and staff to prevent rape and sexual assault.

The anticipated value for Xavier students is: 1) a heightened understanding of the definition of rape; 2) equipping students with the awareness and ability to prevent rape; and 3) the creation and cultivation of a healthy campus culture where respect for all is fostered.

Indicators for success will include: 1) a decrease in the negative stigma surrounding survivors and the concurrent increase in reported sexual assault and rape; 2) increased attendance at the "1 in 4 Day" evening event; and 3) the endorsement and support of a sexually just Xavier community through new initiatives and improved services.*

"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.

* On 1/26/2010, Dr. Roger Fortin, Academic Vice President and Provost, announced the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Response to Sexual Violence. Their mission is to examine current structures, processes, and procedures, compare them to best practices, and recommend how to best enhance them.

3. BUDGET PAGE

AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED: \$6,500.00

Amount	Item
\$500.00	T-shirts ¹
\$500.00	Promotional Bracelets and Buttons ²
\$2,000.00	Promotional Flags ³
\$500.00	Food and Refreshments for evening event in Cintas
\$3,000.00	Video ⁴
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\$6,500.00	Total Amount Requested

The minimal amount of funding needed for “1 in 4 Day” is \$3,500.00. In this case, the video would be forgone.

¹ “1 in 4 Day” t-shirts, creatively designed by an individual from Xavier’s Art department will represent the “1 in 4” ratio and the Women of Excellence Grant’s support. Supporters from Xavier’s faculty, staff, administration and student body will wear these shirts to create a strong presence of awareness and compassion. Sustainability will be encouraged as we will ask past participants to wear t-shirts from previous years’ “1 in 4 Day.” New shirts will be distributed to individuals on campus who have shown strong support and initiative for XSASA’s cause.

² Teal rubber bracelets will read, “The Power of X is Respect – XSASA”. 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 said bracelets and buttons the week before “1-in-4 Day”, asking various students to wear them on jackets and book bags to encourage conversation prior to the event.

³ Flags will be placed on the Academic mall in similar fashion to that of the 9/11 flag display. All flags will be teal, except for every fourth flag, which will be purple - to represent the “1 in 4 women” who are raped during their college career. This will be the only daytime event. While this is a large fee, it is a one-time fee. In order to be sustainable, we will re-use the flags again in subsequent years.

⁴ An informative video to be filmed and produced specifically for Xavier and its students. The video will address issues as outlined in the “Brief Abstract” section through factual information and directives. The video will also include interviews and vignettes from Xavier students and staff as well as nationally acclaimed experts on the culture surrounding sexual assault. Its initial showing will be during the evening ceremony, but is intended to be re-used in years to come by such Xavier groups as: Manresa; the Advocate Program; the Women’s Center; Campus Police; in conjunction with Dr. Fortin’s *Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Response to Sexual Violence*; WOX; LEAD; Theological Foundations classes; and any other group which requests its usage. This will be in an effort to deliver the message of this project to as many people as possible.

4. NARRATIVE

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

Women to Grow & Lead

Xavier Students Against Sexual Assault (XSASA) was formed in the summer of 2008 by Laura Collier and Emily Vassil, both Xavier students and survivors of rape. They were joined that fall by Amanda Mock, another victim. The three women decided to use their horrific experiences and channel their energies into something positive - to leave Xavier a better place than they found it. The idea was to enrich the lives of Xavier students through awareness, aspiring to establish a legacy of understanding under the pretense of a collective voice to address and prevent sexual assault. XSASA now serves as a progressive platform against crimes of rape and sexual assault with the mission to organize and lead; promoting prevention through education.

WOX Mission
The Women of Excellence was created to honor, extend and advance the legacy of Xavier's and Edgecliff's extraordinary women graduates, as well as provide opportunities for women to grow as organizational and philanthropic leaders for the University.

Philanthropic

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 remarkable support, peers and numerous faculty and staff members proved to be cynical and complacent towards the issue. Further investigation revealed that, while they were compassionate about the issue, many people were uninformed about rape and its effect on survivors. Thus, XSASA considers education about these issues essential as Xavier cannot truly accommodate victims of these crimes without the empathetic support from the campus as a whole.

XSASA is not only a student working group, but 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.

How will this project 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?”

One of the important traits of Xavier’s Mission is respect for others. Though the statement above is broad-based, respect for others is certainly an understood virtue of the words “solidarity” and “with compassion.” One month ago, Dr. Fortin wrote, “In keeping with Xavier's mission, the University continually attempts to maintain a campus environment of mutual respect and genuine care for all individuals. It regards, any form of harassment is a violation of its mission.”

XSASA believes that through education and awareness, Xavier students will acquire an appreciation and respect for others, enabling them to personify the Jesuit virtues of solidarity and compassion.

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

The need is twofold: 1) **Lack of Funding.** XSASA has no University funding from any club fund reservoirs; we dig into our own pockets or ask our families and friends for donations and 2) **Awareness.** Establishing campus-wide awareness and understanding about sexual assault leads to conversation and prevention. At the present time, this process that does not adequately exist on Xavier’s Campus.

If funded, describe the expected impact of your project. Specifically quantify the number of people who will be impacted (students, faculty, staff, University community), short and long term, and any other such quantifiable measurements.

Both past “1 in 4 Day” events have been very successful. As a student working group, along with numerous volunteers, we raised campus awareness of sexual assault and rape to the entire Xavier community as well as increased membership in Xavier Students Against Sexual Assault. Many students, faculty and staff speak to us of the impact they experienced from “1 in 4 Day.” Although raising awareness is arguably immeasurable, we feel that through the use of flags on the academic mall, along with our evening event which includes an informative video, we will be able to reach a very broad and diverse population of the Xavier community. We truly believe that people who experience our “1 in 4 Day” event are forever affected and are able to take what they learn and share it with others. The video we will make could be shown to hundreds of incoming freshman as well as Xavier University faculty and staff. Doing so would instill in each individual the value of respecting others, as well as the education necessary to prevent sexual assault and rape. Xavier Students Against Sexual Assault strives, “...to shape the future of the University and create a place where women are valued and empowered to make a difference” and “1 in 4 Day” is one of the most effective ways of doing so.

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? Give specific examples.

Considering that teal is the “brand” color for WOX, it would be simple and clever to print the round WOX logo in white on the teal flags. The WOX insignia could also be a part of the design of this years’ t-shirts, as mentioned on page 3. Additionally, we would be honored to have a WOX representative deliver the “Welcome”, or play some role, in our evening event, as well as be a part of our video production.

How will you measure the success of your project, if funded? What are the quantitative and qualitative measures that you will use to assess impact and effectiveness? Indicate if programs used in the project are validated “best practices.”

XSASA will measure our quantitative success and the effectiveness of our efforts by bench-marking various items, including: 1) the increase in XSASA Club membership; 2) the increase in the report of sexual assault to Campus Police and the Advocate Program - students coming forward to seek assistance; and finally, 3) the eventual decrease in sexual assault incidents, as reported to Campus Police. Qualitative measurements of success will include the increased support and endorsement of XSASA and its mission as well as more initiatives towards sexual justice by Xavier administration, faculty, staff and students.

If funded, how will you communicate the results of your project to WOX Giving Circle Members? Do you agree to speak at WOX events about your project?

XSASA will prepare and submit a written summary to Norah Mock, Executive Director of WOX, by the end of the 2010 fall semester. The summary will outline the impact and outcome(s) of the “1 in 4 Day” event. Mrs. Mock may, of course, distribute and copy the summary at her discretion. Members of XSASA would also be willing and honored to speak at any WOX event about our project.