



The Community Foundation
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form

Grant Period:

9/1/2011 – 8/31/2012

Organization: Against Abuse, Inc.

Contact Name: Patricia R.J. Griffen

Title: Executive Director

Phone Number: (520) 836-1239

Grant Period: 9/1/11 – 8/31/12

Award Amount: \$25,000.

Grant Number: 2011477

- Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.

This funding provided 149 children in shelter with counseling and DV education; while their mothers were provided Parenting Skills classes; in addition, 650 8th graders in local schools received Teen Dating Violence education and instruction.

Based on the goals and objectives listed in the request for proposal, objective number one was not met (short by 2%); while objectives number two and three were met:

Objective 1:	By 8/31/2012, 85% of children surveyed will indicate an increased understanding of their situations and the emotional impact that comes from living in crisis.
Action:	Groups and activities focused on identifying feelings: anger, sadness, guilt, shame, happy, excited, relief; children were then given reaction options and what-if scenarios; finally the children discussed appropriate and inappropriate responses, healthy relationship skills and how to handle their anger.
Evaluation:	Surveys indicate that 83% of children met this objective. Many comments in classes centered around the sentiment of relief the kids felt in realizing they were not alone, odd or different. Sharing their situations and frustrations helped them to get in touch with their feelings and talk about alternatives to violence.
Objective 2:	By 8/31/2012, 80% of children surveyed will indicate an improvement in their coping skills.
Action:	Coping skills are taught to address anger, aggression and sadness in children. The Counselor used journaling, drawing pictures, singing and pet therapy to help kids deal with difficult emotions, reduce their stress level and open up to adults about fears, options and desires.
Evaluation:	Surveys indicate that 81% of children met this objective. Following are typical comments on the surveys: "when I write a song it can be happy or sad like me" (8 yr old boy); and "I usually dance with my friends or sister when I'm happy but if I'm not then I talk to my aunt who's nice" (14 yr old girl).

Objective 3:	By 8/31/2012, 95% of children will have developed a safety plan for use in the future.
Action:	Each child over the age of 8 developed a safety plan in conjunction with their Counselor. They planned where to go, who to tell and exactly what to do in different situations depending on their personal circumstances.
Evaluation:	One hundred forty-four or 97% of children counseled completed a safety plan for their use in the future. One six year old girl was happy to practice on her play phone and stated "I don't have to ask Mommy to call 911 if I'm scared - I can do it by myself!" During a safety plan for a 13 year old boy he said, "I will just have to sneak out of the house to call 911 and my grandma if they start fighting again. I know I shouldn't try to stop my step-dad because if I get hurt who's gonna call 911?"

- What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?

This program's greatest challenge was in dealing with the mothers of the children being serviced. Many of them did not understand the severe impact that witnessing domestic violence had on their children. Some parents minimized the need for services, believing their children would soon forget the violence to which they were exposed. Although children are very resilient, when they are exposed to or witness violence first hand, it becomes engrained into their self-image because it involves their parent. In order to counter this, education and counseling is vital to ending the cycle of abuse. The Counselor could teach the children what a healthy relationship consisted of and stress that love is respect, but if the parent did not mirror that belief, the cycle could continue. AAI addresses this obstacle by mandating parenting classes for all shelter residents with children. Staff feels this has helped moms in crisis to understand that aftercare for their children is equally important for their healing as it is for her own. Some mothers were SMI and unable to grasp this reality, however others made such statements as, "Working with the counselor has helped me stabilize and now I can help my children understand that this situation is not their fault." The lessons learned from this situation is that it's helpful for the whole family to be educated about DV. Familial situations have better resolution when a holistic approach is used to end violence.

- Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.

Some positive surprising results came from the 8th graders at the local schools who took the Teen Dating Violence curriculum through their school's health class. They were very engaged and interested in the topics, encouraging others to join the class also. The counselors who taught these classes found them enjoyable, open to discussion and honest about their past relationships. One young girl seemed sad by her new-found knowledge stating, "I thought he loved me and that's why he didn't want me to hang out with my friends on the weekend. I never looked at it as control... but now it makes sense."

Other positive outcomes which we recognized but did not foresee: school attendance increased because of the structure of shelter life, expecting mothers received prenatal care when they had previously be unable to attend classes, and stress levels were reduced.

- Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.

GIMBEL funding made it possible to provide healing and knowledge to a very vulnerable population of children in Pinal County: children who had witnessed their mothers being beaten or verbally belittled and berated and/or controlled by fear and threats. Specifically, the agency was able to maintain the Children’s Counselor position for the DV shelter; therapeutic activities were provided to child witnesses and victims of abuse; and kids learned to express their experience and share that with other victims.

The agency has also benefited because our mission-based services were provided to those in need and the community responded to the services and needs by providing other donations, children’s back-to-school parties as well as Christmas and Halloween parties. Some local groups such as the retirement community Mission Royale, prefer to focus on services to children in need. Having a full-time Children’s Counselor allowed them a direct staff person to work with to provide their special experiences for the children.

- Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.

One success story: There was a parent who was initially thankful because her teenage daughter chose not to stay with her at the shelter when she arrived. When her daughter visited, mom expressed they both had a hard time with communication skills. Her daughter did not understand why mom was in a shelter and mom could not explain or understand the situation herself. The teen was introduced to shelter activities, groups and educational lessons offered by the Children’s Counselor. She began to understand the cycle of violence and how different choices can help women and children deal with the effects of DV in a healing and empowering manner. The teen then changed her mind and chose to stay with her mother at the shelter where she participated in groups and the money matters program. Both the child and mom requested continuing services after exiting shelter and will therefore continue to receive counseling and other support services as community clients.

Another success story: Eight year old little “Amy” came into shelter very shy, rarely making eye contact with others. After DV Education classes and therapeutic activities, she was sharing stories of her life before shelter, smiling and confidently declaring, “we know what to do now! We have a SAFETY plan!”

- Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).

Project Line Item Expenses	Project Budget
Children’s Counselor Salary	\$20,291.69
Children’s Counselor E.R.E.	\$4,227.06
Mileage Reimbursement	\$481.25
Children’s Supplies	-0-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$25,000.00

- ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.
- ❖ All variances or time extensions must be approved by The Community Foundation’s Grant Committee. Please contact us at 951-684-4194, ext. 114 immediately if a variance or extension becomes necessary.

Please return the completed form to: Celia Cudiamat, Vice President of Grant Programs, 3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911, Or email to: ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net