

New Haven Students Recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month

To recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month, New Haven students attended The Clothesline Project at Utah Valley University (UVU) on April 1, 2008 for the second time in two years. The Clothesline Project displays t-shirts designed by victims of abuse who use this medium to tell their story, gain a therapeutic release, and communicate hopeful messages to others who have been abused. Some New Haven students made t-shirts of their own and expressed their personal experiences of abuse during a special group therapy session. Many of the students hung their t-shirts on the clothesline at UVU, and then spent time reading the other shirts as well. Kara Pyper, New Haven Recreation Therapist, said, "Both times it has really been powerful for all of the girls that I have gone with. It is defiantly an eye opener and seems to bring the girls together because they are able to help each other out so much."

Students also participated in a 5K run on April 19, 2008, designed to bring public attention to the prevention of child abuse.