

SAAM: Got Your Back Bags

TUESDAY
APRIL 16
1PM-5PM

ILLINOIS
Women's Resources Center
STUDENT AFFAIRS

THURSDAY
APRIL 18
1PM-5PM

616 E. Green St., Suite 202, Champaign, IL 61820

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The Got Your Back Bag project was created in partnership with students to ensure the initiative was relevant for our current campus needs. As a student-driven initiative, one of our Spring 2019 Program Interns took the lead on researching, coordinating, and budgeting for the program. With support from our staff, we were able to secure a variety of comfort and care items to be included in each bag. Teal drawstring bags were printed with the messaging “You Are Enough” which was selected by our intern, and creates the additional benefit of promoting a positive mental health status among a highly competitive campus community. Within each teal bag are the following: stress ball; handwritten note of encouragement; tea bags; heating/cooling pad; coloring book; colored pencils; an Illinois folder with information about rights and options; confidential resources on (and around) campus; and a “Jar of Positivity” which contains short, handwritten affirmations.

Thanks to your generous support, we were also able to purchase more than 200 additional teal drawstring bags, to be distributed at various tabling and outreach events. This component of the project is particularly important as a wider distribution of the bags (unstuffed) normalizes the item on campus, reducing the likelihood of students associating those carrying the bags, with survivorhood. Finally, the remaining funds from this grant were used to purchase numerous sets of sheets to be made available to survivors as needed.



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Our Spring 2019 Program Interns collectively contributed to the development and implementation of the Got Your Back Bag project. In addition to item selection and design, one key intern coordinated two community engagement events, to occur within Sexual Assault Awareness Month. These events offered the opportunity for campus community members to participate in bag stuffing, writing encouragement notes, and discussing available resources and strategies to support those who experience sexual assault. Event details are outlined below:



Got Your Back Bags: Make a Survivor Care Package (Event #1)

April 16, 2019 from 1:00pm-5:00pm

Location: Women's Resources Center

50 Attendees

Got Your Back Bags: Make a Survivor Care Package (Event #2)

April 18, 2019 from 1:00pm-5:00pm

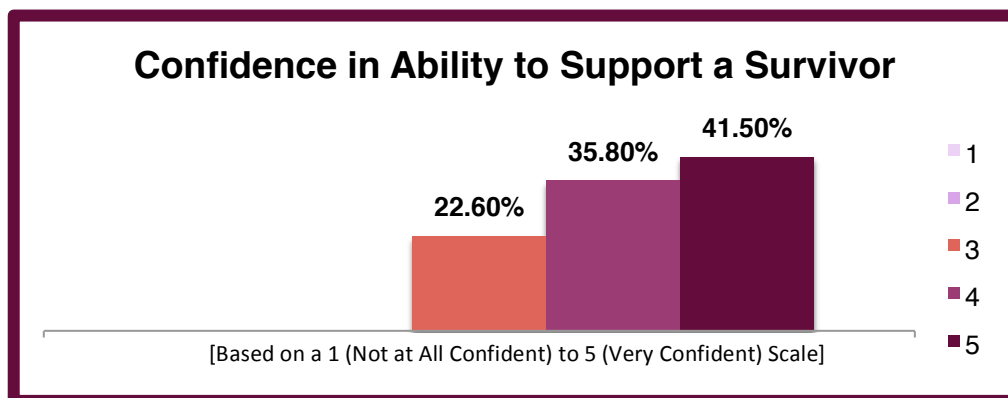
Location: Women's Resources Center

17 Attendees (due to rain)

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Total Number of Event Participants: 67
- Total Number of Got Your Back Bags developed: 100
- Total Sets of Sheets Purchased: 18

In addition to arranging our Bags, attendees were provided information about survivors support strategies. Results from our assessment are as follows:



In addition to our event's learning outcomes, we were also fortunate to see Got Your Back's successes tied to three of our five Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) learning outcomes. Below are examples of how this unique program contributed to the overall successes of SAAM:

SAAM LEARNING OUTCOME #3: Students will be exposed to new individuals and/or organizations committed to ending sexual violence, across the campus community

- WRC Program Intern Jada Brown's connections in University Housing, STEM organizations, and the black student community brought a number of new students to the WRC through the Got Your Back Bag project. Over 50% of students attending these two events, learned about the opportunity from a friend or Registered Student Organization (RSO).

SAAM LEARNING OUTCOME #4: Students will be better able to identify strategies for supporting survivors and supporters, impacted by sexual violence

- The launch of our new Got Your Back Bag project provided a tangible way for students to help survivors through the creation of a care package. Students put together comfort items like stress balls, tea, and a heating pad, and moreover, these students were provided the opportunity to write supportive messages to survivors.
- Over 75% of Got Your Back event participants indicated they felt confident or very confident in their ability to support a survivor. Survivors at this event felt supported too.

SAAM LEARNING OUTCOME #5: Students will obtain information about the availability and breadth of resources on campus

- The Got Your Back events were attended by 67 individuals. In putting together care packages for survivors on campus, participants were able to tangibly engage with WRC resource materials and learn about the different ways that these resources help survivors.
- Both Got Your Back Bag events took place in the Women's Resources Center, which provided students with a personal look at a specific campus resource available to themselves, and their peers. Several students asserted that had they known the space existed sooner, they would have spent more time in the WRC.

“As a survivor of domestic violence, this project was so thoughtful and I am glad I got to contribute to it. I PROMISE the survivors receiving these bags will be forever grateful.”

