“As a high school boy, a lot of different messages were being sent to me in regards to how I was supposed to act towards others both in my friendships and relationships. I witnessed unhealthy relationships at school, and I knew that something was wrong, but I didn’t know why it was or how to stop it.

When I joined the MENS Club at my high school (Men Encouraging Nonviolent Strength), I was lucky enough to begin discussing the issues of both masculinity and a patriarchal world at large that contributed to some of the verbal abuse that I saw happening as well as cases of violence that I knew existed not only with couples in my school, but everywhere else.

Being able to discuss how to be better men with other guys from my high school was an invaluable experience. It was even more invaluable to teach others students in my school district methods of how to prevent teen dating violence, and how to have conversations with other kids about healthy relationships. My experiences in MENS Club have allowed me to go into the world as an ally for women, aware of the impact that my actions make on others, both in my own intimate relationships but also with other men. It is so important that men take the time to talk with one another about how to be better partners in intimate relationships. We must be supportive, understanding, empathetic, and above all respectful when handling conflict in our intimate relationships. Through doing this myself, I have been able to contribute to a society that is safer for both women and men, as well as more enjoyable to live in.”

A Madison, WI native, Asher Klaven graduated from West High School in
2011 where he was a participant in the DAIS MENS club. Asher completed his undergraduate degree in Photography from Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. He is now living and working in Madison.

School DAIS MENS club, GSAFE and Operation Fresh Start.

Each group will share how they are transforming lives and building stronger communities.

This event is free and open to the public. Teens are encouraged to attend. Pizza will be served at 5:30 pm with presentations beginning at 5:45 pm.

Please RSVP to our Facebook Event.

If you want to RSVP for a group, please email Sheba McCants.

DAIS 2017 Empower Sessions aim to educate the community about the issue of domestic violence and provide community members the tools to be effective allies in the work to end domestic violence. The 2017 Empower Sessions are sponsored by National Guardian Life Insurance Company and CUNA Mutual Group.

Action Steps

1. Raise awareness of TDVAM. Help spread the word that February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Statistics show that nearly one in three teens who have been in a relationship have experienced teen dating violence.

2. Start the conversation with teens in your life. Not sure how to start talking? Try playing Healthy Relationship Bingo while watching TV. Talking with teens in your life about healthy relationships helps better prepare them for their dating lives and can help prevent them from experiencing violence.

3. Attend the upcoming Empower Session to hear from three speakers on the impact they are making in the lives of teens.

Power of One

We all have the power to change harmful attitudes, to speak up, and to support the work to end domestic abuse. It is the power of one voice, one message, one conversation, one intervention. The act of helping one leads to the impact of helping all.

One. And for all.