



# Abby's House

*Center for Women and Families*

**ABBY'S HOUSE  
SUMMER  
HOURS:  
Monday-Friday  
11-5PM**

Abby's House is located in the Werner University Center Room 106

Email: [abbyshouse@wou.edu](mailto:abbyshouse@wou.edu)

Main Office: 503-838-8219



## **Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)**

In April we commemorated Sexual Assault Awareness month with a theme of **Breaking Through Shame**. The month's events focused on the shame victims face and how we as a society can break through that shame. We also focused on victim blaming and the impact of this form of blaming on survivors of sexual assault.

### **Speak Out**

The **Speak Out** event on April 27th included a gathering of Abby's House advocates and our friends from the sorority Alpha Chi Omega on the WUC Plaza. The purpose was to speak out about the culture of victim blaming, the normalization of this blame in our culture, and to highlight the impact of victim blaming. Our goal was to empower people to break through the shame of victim blaming and have the freedom to speak, freedom to express their gender, freedom to express their sexuality, and freedom to wear whatever they want to! During this event we had support from a local activist, **Brenda Tracy**. She was not able to attend, but she sent us a statement that not only shared her story of sexual assault, but also some of her own blame and shame she experienced. This was a great lead in as we spoke out how we can support the people around us, and what we can do on a daily basis to end the culture around victim blaming.

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# Spring 2016 Programs

## Equal Pay Day: Interactive Inequality Bake Sale



Equal Pay Day this year was on April 12th, the day when women's earnings "catch up" to men's earnings from the previous year. With the support of AAUW of Salem, we had our annual inequality bake sale. This year, each person who participated was asked to draw a profile card. Each card had a different profile of how an individual was impacted by the wage gap. These profiles showed how different ethnicities, genders, and sexualities experience unequal pay. Each participant's price for the baked good was based on how much on the amount earned in each scenario.

## Speak Like a Girl

*Speak Like a Girl* is a slam poetry feminist explosion! By partnering with SAB, Abby's House brought this fierce, fun, feminist even to our campus on April 20th. Through humorous and passionate performances, Megan & Olivia used spoken word poetry as a tool to educate students about gender inequality. They shed light on issues such as street harassment, body image, rape culture and the perils of the patriarchy. They made us laugh, cry, and rally for change. With entertaining skits, polls, and audience participation, these young women were able to make the audience put on their critical thinking caps, and light a fire in their bellies to make a change!



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## Denim Day

Abby's House teamed up With Alpha Chi Omega for **Denim Day on April 27th**. This event is based on a case in Italy in the 90's, in which young woman was raped by her driving instructor. The Italian supreme court set the perpetrator free. According to the judge.. "because the victim was wearing really tight jeans she had to have helped him pull them off, turning this rape in to consensual sex". In a stand of solidarity, women in the Italian Parliament wore jeans to work protesting this decision. To commemorate this day, women all over the world wear jeans to highlight how serious victim blaming is in our society. AXO had a display board that allowed participants to write supportive statements on mini pieces of denim and post them to the board in the shape of a heart.



# Spring 2016 Programs

## The Mask You Live In

Abby's House hosted a screening of the film *The Mask You Live In* on April 27th. The film addressed how boys and men struggle to stay true to themselves while negotiating America's narrow definition of masculinity. Men often experience shame when they feel they do not live up to our society's expectations of "*being a man*". For some men this shame leads to sadness, fear, and even violence. This movie explored different stages of being a boy and then a man, and how each step along the way has influenced them to put on and live in a "mask". After the film we had a discussion lead by Dr. Dana Showalter about some of the major ideas we can take away from this film. This film was part of the Healthy Masculinities in Campus Athletics Project.



*Thanks to the Communications Department and the Hamersley Library for supporting this event.*

## Community Outreach

254 students  
reached in Abby's  
House presentations  
in 2015-2016

During the Spring term Abby's House staff and advocates provided eight outreach presentations on campus. Three of these presentations were in depth presentations about sexual violence and resources on campus. During these presentations we partnered with Green Dot and talked about bystander strategies to actively stand against violence. We reached over 150 students in these presentations.

### *Outreach Spotlight: Middle School Students Visit Abby's House*

On April 28th, Abby's House hosted a group of students from Whiteaker Middle School in Keizer, OR. A group of 18 middle school students (grades 6-8th) were visiting Western Oregon University to learn about higher education. Their teacher, WOU Alumnus JoBeth Rube wanted these students to understand the kinds of support services available to students when they went to college. Three Abby's House Advocates created a scavenger hunt activity for these visiting students. The scavenger hunt included having students visit Abby's House, the Stonewall Center, the Multicultural Student Services and Programs Office and the Service Learning and Career Development Office. In each office they interacted with staff and answered questions about the services provided.

# 2015-2016 Awards

## Woman of the Year

### Dr. Doris Cancel-Tirado

Annually Abby's House honors a faculty or staff woman in our community who exemplifies our mission. Specifically, we honor a woman whose work has contributed to equity and non-violence. The Woman of the Year 2016, Dr. Cancel-Tirado is an associate professor in the Division of Health and Exercise Science. She has experience working with health and human services agencies and deeply values and engages in multidisciplinary efforts to improve family well-being in diverse and multicultural contexts. The student who nominated her wrote, *"She works to empower all of her students. In our women's health course she spoke on topics of discrimination and injustice and empowered us to make change in our community by regularly encouraging her students to be civically engaged through service projects in the community and lobby days at the capitol. She is a strong female role model for all of her students inside the classroom and out."*



## Jeanne Deane Abby's House Scholarship

### Ashley Flores



Ashley Flores, a 5th year senior next year, is seeking a degree in Psychology and a minor in Communications. With her degree, she hopes to go in to counseling for adolescents, possibly working within the LGBTQ community. She wants to go to grad school in the future. She chose to apply for this scholarship because she heard from her roommate, Elizabeth, how much good work we do and how you can really feel the changes you are making on campus. Ashley was interested in being helpful to her community and having personal growth to become the best person she can be. The quote she lives by is *"remember who you are in the circle of life"*.

## Abby's House Graduating Advocates

### Congratulations to our graduating seniors!

To recognize their service to Abby's House, advocates receive a special honor cord to wear during commencement.

Pictured from left to right, top row: Tania Villanueva, Guadalupe Becerra, Amanda Stevens, Rachel Feldhaus. Second Row: Crystal De Leon, Hannah Towle, Ashley Baxter.

(Advocates not pictured:) Ileen Huerta-Luna, Kayla Robertson

**Thank you for your service and commitment to social justice, seniors!**



# Abby's House Advocate Awards

## Senior Leadership Award: Hannah Towle and Tania Villanueva

This is an award to honor a graduating senior advocate who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to Abby's House during their time at WOU. This year we have not one but two advocate award winners!



Hannah has been involved at Abby's House for three years. She was one of our Advocate Staff Leaders as the Sexual Violence Resource Coordinator. Hannah has assisted on multiple projects related to the Campus Against Sexual Assault grant. Hannah initiated her own projects in the realm of sexual violence prevention playing a key role in the *CounterACT Violence* campaign launched in 2015. She also dedicated significant time to Abby's House in program planning and event execution. She has provided many outreach presentations in classrooms across campus. She is a skilled advocate, having helped numerous students needing support over her time at Abby's House. Hannah is a dedicated, passionate advocate and diplomatic leader among her peers.



Tania joined Abby's House as an advocate this Fall. She worked as a fall term intern and quickly became identified as a leader among her peers. Tania's incredible attention to detail, self-motivated work ethic, and ability to assess and boost team morale has made her a valuable member of our Abby's House team. Tania took the helm of the annual Silent Auction, which is no easy feat. Due in part to her efforts we had our most successful auction to date. She also played a significant role in program planning for MLK Week and Stalking Awareness Month. Tania is viewed as a glowing source of support and positivity among advocates, illustrating the ways she is respected and valued as a leader at Abby's House.

## Advocate Leadership Award: Jessica Fontaine

This is an award to honor an advocate who has been a strong leader among Abby's House advocates. Jessica joined Abby's House as an advocate in Fall 2014. In her first year, she co-produced the production of *The Vagina Monologues*. This year, she was hired as our External Programs Coordinator. She has excelled in this role, providing direction, accountability, creativity, and problem-solving strategies that make our events successful. She also excels in promoting our center and our events on social media. Jessica serves on the Abby's House Board of Directors and has initiated several activities among advocates that offer opportunities for bonding and social justice activism.



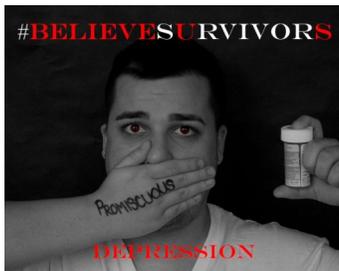
## Social Justice Award: Amanda Stevens



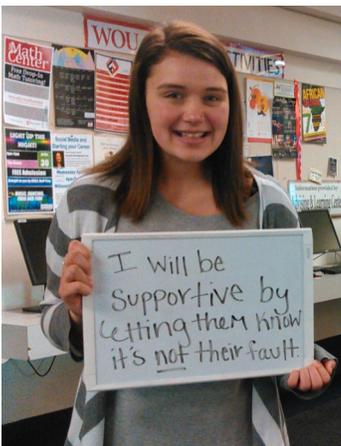
This is an award to honor an advocate who demonstrates a strong commitment to social justice through activism, creativity, and enthusiasm as it aligns with the Abby's House mission. Amanda, who started working with Abby's House this fall has shown to be highly involved in the WOU community, working as a project assistant at The Research Institute, played a role in making WOU a tobacco free, and obtaining access to free contraception on campus. It is clear through her involvement that Amanda has a passion for justice. It is no wonder that her peers identified her for this award as she demonstrates a strong alignment with the Abby's House mission in all of her activities.

# Partnered Projects

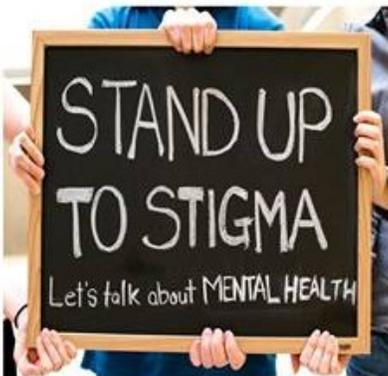
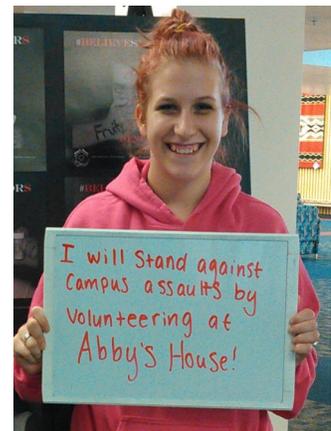
## #BelieveSurvivors Campaign



Advocate Ashley Baxter (shown above) designed the #BelieveSurvivors campaign as a part of the Alfred Maurice Prize Competition. We are proud to say that Ashley was awarded the prize after she completed this project! The Maurice Prize is given to an undergrad student who is trying to solve a problem. Ashley's topic fit so well into our Sexual Assault Awareness Month that we helped support and launch her project, as well as used her posters to focus this years' theme on shame. The project consisted of nine different posters looking at what victim blaming causes.



By using volunteers from the WOU community for her posters, Ashley was able to shed light on how victims feel silenced by their society and put down as survivors for being sexually assaulted, and unsupported when trying to find support. Ashley's project included a table in the WUC. Visitors to the table could write on dry erase boards examples of how they would support their friends or how they will actively stand against victim blaming.



## It's O.K. to Not be O.K. Video Launch

Hailey Wren's mental health awareness campaign was completed with the launch of her film *It's O.K. to Not be O.K.* on May 19th. This is a film in which WOU students shared their experiences with mental illness such as depression and anxiety. These students talked about how mental illness has affected them in their daily lives and how they cope. This was a very inspiring film for others to know about what it is like for these students to struggle with mental illness, and that it is ok not to be ok. Her film is now available on YouTube.



# Abby's House

## Center for Women and Families

### ***Mission Statement:***

To provide the WOU community with educational programming, information, and referral services designed to promote equity and non-violence. We embrace a feminist model that empowers all people to actively stand against all forms of violence, harassment, verbal abuse, discrimination, and hatred.

### **We can help you find resources for a variety issues:**

- Sexual Violence
- Relationship Violence
- Sexual Harassment
- Stalking
- Housing Assistance
- Stress and Anxiety
- Depression
- Suicide
- Women's Health
- Breast Cancer
- Child Care
- Substance Abuse
- Eating Disorders
- Gender Identity
- And Much More

### ***Our Name:***

The name Abby's House was chosen in honor of Abigail Scott Duniway, who fought for women's right to vote and own property predominantly in Oregon. She was the first woman to register to vote in Oregon.



## On the web:

[www.wou.edu/abbyshouse](http://www.wou.edu/abbyshouse)

[facebook.com/wouabbyshouse](https://www.facebook.com/wouabbyshouse)

<https://twitter.com/WOUAbbysHouse>



*Editors: Hannah Towle, Lupe Becerra & Mary Ellen Dello Stritto*