

## **Kelsey Smith Foundation, Inc.**

Since its inception on July 6, 2007 the Kelsey Smith Foundation, Inc. has been growing and striving to become a service oriented 501 (c) (3) corporation. It has been a learning process but with the hard work of its Directors, Members, Associate Members and Volunteers, as well as overwhelming community support, much has been accomplished to this end. Still, much remains to be done.

According to the latest CDC statistics over 4000 17-24 year olds are murdered each year. The public needs to be educated about this tragedy and empowered to do something about it.

From July 6, 2007 to June 30, 2008 (Our first fiscal year of operation) KSF has:

- Held the inaugural Kelsey Smith Foundation Annual Charity Golf Classic on Oct. 8, 2007. Proceeds from the event financed the development of the Safety Awareness Training and helped purchase the materials and equipment to conduct the seminars.
- Developed the Safety Awareness Seminar program. This program was developed after months of research in conjunction with law enforcement and the latest methods of learning theory, and delivers pragmatic, relevant training to youth and adults in the area of personal safety and protection. From October 21, 2007 to June 26, 2008, sixteen (16) Safety Awareness Seminars were presented to over 3000 participants. Below are some of the venues the SAS was presented at during the first year:

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Rockhurst University

Manhattan Christian College

Kansas State University

Johnson County Community College

Waddell & Reed

Shawnee Mission North SSOTA

Hallmark

Shawnee Mission West High School

Johnson County Probation & Parole

During our second year of operation the demand for the SAS program increased. In addition, the Safety Whistle Initiative was added to the SAS for high school programs. Another fifty (50) SAS's have been presented from July 1, 2007 to present to a total of over 5000 participants in less than two years. Some of the venues for these SAS's are listed below:

Shawnee Mission School District Summer Enrichment Program

Victory Baptist Church

Internal Revenue Service

Huhtamaki

Blue Valley Northwest High School

Norman & Associates

Johnson County Corrections

Johnson County District Attorney's Office

Paola High School

Park Hill University

Kansas State University

U.S. District Attorney's Office (Western Missouri)

Surviving Parents Coalition

Lawrence High School

Lawrence Free State High School

Smithville High School

## Response to SAS

SAS participants are asked to complete a survey after the seminar. Listed below are samples of participant responses and/or email responses KSF has received:

"Thank you for organizing the visit by Kelsey Smith's parents. At 3:34pm on Friday afternoon I received a phone call from my son. Of course at that time of day, I expected the worst like maybe a heads up about a detention or something. Instead, he just wanted to tell me that he loved me, and proceeded to tell me about the visit from the Smiths. It left a huge impact on him and I appreciate the 'knock on his head' that it gave him. ☺ I'm sure it gave other students the same knock."

"Thank you for speaking at our school today. As a teacher, I worry about our students going out on their own in college and their safety. I know you made a lot of them think today - thank you for your work."

"I want to say thank you for coming to my school today. As a female hearing stories like Kelsey's, I sometimes feel like a target and I get scared. After today, I feel like I have the power to be less of a target and respond to a situation better. Most of all, I want to say thank you for giving me that feeling..."

## Legislative Issues

Greg and Missey have spoken out about the critical delay in the release of cell phone location information in Kelsey's case. Information that could and should have been released within an hour's time took three days to obtain. Timely release of this information could have resulted in Kelsey's body being recovered in less than 24 hours, instead of four days.

Greg and Missey met with several Kansas legislators and proposed a law to compel cell phone providers to release locate information on any cellular device to law enforcement should a determination be made by law enforcement that a person is in danger of great bodily harm or death. Representative Rob Olsen proposed legislation to this effect. Greg and Missey testified in front of the House Utilities Committee on February 9, 2009 and in front of the Senate Utilities Committee on March 20, 2009. They were also present for the debate and vote on the floor of the Kansas Senate on March 24, 2009. The bill has been passed by both the Kansas House and Senate and is awaiting the governor's signature. *This law is the first of its kind in the nation.*

Greg and Missey are members of the Surviving Parents Coalition (SPC) and in February 2009 participated in a lobbying effort in Washington, D.C. with other SPC members (Ed Smart, Erin Runnion and Mark Lunsford) to urge Congress to fully fund the Adam Walsh Act.

## **Public Speaking**

Greg and Missey Smith have spoken to several groups about KSF, Kelsey's Story and other related issues. Listed below are some of the venues:

Star Jones Show

FOX 4 News, Kansas City

The Reality of Violence and Drugs in Our Community (Jackard Symposium)

Monday Club

Indian Creek Community Church SPARX

Topeka Rotary Club

FBI's All Employee Conference

FBI Citizens Academy

University of Central Missouri (Missouri Leadership Seminar, Inc.)

Missouri Association of Court Administrators (MACA) (May 6, 2009)

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Forensic Investigations – From Crime Scene to Courtroom (May 22, 2009)

## **Kelsey Smith Memorial Scholarship**

A scholarship was established in Kelsey's honor along with Kansas State University for a Shawnee Mission West High School graduate who is a member of band and will continue in marching band. This scholarship is awarded annually to a new recipient.

## **Public Awareness**

In March of 2009 the Kelsey Smith Foundation™ produced its first public service announcement to promote awareness and bring to light the terrible problem of violent death to our youth and young adults. This PSA is now aired on several Kansas City Area radio stations.

### **Safety Whistle Program**

After months of research KSF selected a unique safety whistle to help keep young women safe. Four thousand whistles were purchased by KSF in the first year of the program. An additional three thousand whistles have been purchased in the program's second year. This whistle is given out; free of charge, to all high school girls who attend the KSF Safety Awareness Seminar. One thousand whistles were given to the female students and staff at Shawnee Mission West High School on Feb. 19, 2008. Over 3500 whistles have been given out at subsequent SAS presentations. Several hundred more have been provided to the public via our website.

### **Research and Development**

The months of January and February 2008 were also busy researching, designing and distributing informational pamphlets on topics such as: date rape, rape, DNA Evidence, and Safety Tips. Some brochures are available in electronic and printed form. Others are still in the development phase.

Kelsey's Army, a program to teach community organizations what to do should a person go missing, is still in the developmental stages. This program also provides training on how to liaison with media and law enforcement. It is anticipated this program will debut in 2009 providing a valuable resource to communities and save time getting the word out through media outlets, as well as organizing search efforts.

Acquaintance Awareness Seminar: Since nearly 88% of all sexual assaults are committed by a person know to the victim this program will promote awareness of how to recognize and avoid these situations. This program is in the research and development stage. It is anticipated to debut in the Fall of 2009.

### **Self Defense Clinics**

The Kelsey Smith Foundation™ has teamed up with Title Boxing Club to offer free self defense clinics. These clinics are offered on a periodic basis at the Title Boxing Club facility in Overland Park, KS. This program consists of a 45 minute course of techniques that may be employed should a person end up in a dangerous situation. The program is designed as a "starter" course and it is recommended that all clinic participants continue training in conjunction with Title Boxing Club or other self defense teacher.

## **Kelsey Smith Foundation Charity Golf Classic (KSFCGC)**

This annual event is the major fundraiser for KSF. The first was held on October 8, 2007. The second was held on July, 28, 2008. The third will be held on July 20, 2009. Calloway Golf has generously provided golf balls and equipment for all of the golf classics. Past sponsors have included: Hodgdon Powder, Kansas City Royals Baseball Club, Capitol Federal Savings, OMB Express Police Supply, and Examinetics. Many other businesses have provided items for the silent auction, and provided breakfast and lunch for the participants.

