



3/18/2025

Dear Committee Members,

Pearl Crisis Center has been partnering with area middle and high schools to teach students about abusive behaviors, consent and sexual assault in a safe, classroom environment for more than 15 years. Along with the Safe Dates program, which provides this vital education to 600 to 800 Mille Lacs County youth each year, Pearl has also developed the Teens Against Dating Violence advocacy group that boasts 120 members ages 11 to 21. The Safe Dates program is data-driven, tried and tested curriculum that greatly increases students' knowledge on topics of dating abuse, consent and sexual assault. The YIP grant is directly responsible for funding the youth advocate at Pearl who administers the Safe Dates program and manages and operates the TADA group. The youth advocate also specializes in offering domestic violence and sexual assault services to clients ages 18 or younger. YIP funding has been transformative for Pearl and its community, greatly improving the lives of area youth. Further investments to the YIP grant prove Minnesota has its eye set toward a bright future.

Sincerely,

Lesley Toth  
Youth Advocate  
Pearl Crisis Center  
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