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**UA Foundation Account: 168000**

**Program seeking funding: Oasis Program for Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence**

## **Program Overview**

The Oasis Program for Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence (Oasis Program) provides a variety of free and confidential services to UA students, staff, and faculty of all gender expressions who are impacted by sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking. The Oasis Program is a unit of Campus Health Service and is an active partner with UA students groups, cultural centers, and Tucson community service agencies. Together with our campus and community partners we strive to provide coordinated responses to, and work toward the prevention of, all forms of interpersonal violence.

## **Proposal Abstract**

Sexual violence disproportionately affects women, and can and does occur on our campus. Research has shown that 25% of college-aged women will experience sexual violence, which makes risk reduction and preventive measures crucial. The Oasis Program currently provides free self-defense courses; however, contracted off-campus instructors teach the courses. This lack of certified instructors limits the scheduling and quantity of courses offered and the number of students reached, and it also creates an unsustainable financial model to pay instructors without charging students.

With support from the Parents & Family Association, we hope to train and certify up to five on-campus faculty and/or staff members as self-defense instructors. By utilizing on-campus instructors, we can increase the number of basic self-defense courses offered, be more flexible in scheduling classes, keep this important service free and, most importantly, increase the number of students who are reached.

## **Statement of Need**

Sexual violence is a tool of power and control that disproportionately affects women, and our campus community has not been immune to this violence. According to the University of Arizona Police Department, on October 8, 2008 a stranger in the Coronado Residence Hall sexually assaulted a woman while she slept. Another woman was sexually abused after a stranger followed her into an elevator in the Sky View Residence Hall on March 8, 2009<sup>1</sup>. The number of students who experience sexual violence and do not report is likely much higher than reported. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, only 36% of rapes/sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement<sup>2</sup> due to fear of reprisal by the perpetrator and concerns of bias and victim blaming. Research by experts in public health found that one in every four college-aged women is sexually assaulted<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> University of Arizona Police Department. Campus Watch Alert, March 9, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2002) "Rape and Sexual Assault: Reporting to Police and Medical Attention, 1992 – 2000". NCJ 194530.

<sup>3</sup> Koss, M.P., Gidycz C.J. and Wisniewski, N. (1987). "The Scope of Rape: Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Aggression and Victimization Among a National Sample of Students in Higher Education. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 55: 162-70.

Given that a staggering 25% of college-aged women will experience sexual violence, risk reduction and preventive measures must continue to be implemented. The Oasis Program works to prevent sexual violence through free self-defense courses. In collaboration with the Women’s Resource Center, we offer a 12-hour basic Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) course twice per semester. RAD provides women with education on sexual assault prevention and hands-on skills to defend themselves. The course is limited to 20 students, and there is generally a wait list of students who are unable to enroll.

Contracted off-campus instructors currently teach the RAD courses. While they offer high-quality instruction to participants, this current model does not fully meet the needs of the UA community. The number of classes we can offer is limited by the instructors’ schedules and an instructor fee is charged for each class. Paying instructors while offering free classes is not optimal under the current economic circumstances, and charging students a fee for this service may also limit those who are able to participate in this important course. Additionally, many residence halls and sororities request short self-defense demonstrations, yet the Oasis Program is unable to meet these requests due to the associated cost and instructor availability.

To meet the UA’s needs, we are requesting funds to train up to five on-campus staff members as certified RAD instructors. This one-time cost would eliminate the cost of paying outside instructors, allow more flexibility in scheduling trainings and, most importantly, meet the needs of hundreds of the University of Arizona’s students. Once staff members are certified, we will increase the number of basic self-defense courses offered during the semester to one per month and fulfill incoming requests from residence halls and sororities.

<b>Goal: To reduce the risk of sexual violence against women on the University of Arizona’s campus through RAD self-defense courses.</b>
Objective 1: Train and certify up to five (5) staff and/or faculty members of the University of Arizona as RAD instructors.
Objective 2: Increase the number of free basic RAD self-defense courses offered per semester from two (2) to four (4), reaching 160 students a year.
Objective 3: Work with residence halls and sororities to fulfill requests for shorter self-defense programs, potentially reaching
Objective 4: Increase the confidence of women in their ability to reduce risk and prevent sexual violence.

**Budget Detail**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Self Defense Instructor Tuition	3 day, 30 hour training and certification from Rape Aggression Defense (\$400 x 5 instructors)	\$2,000
Posters	Posters to distribute across campus (\$150 x 2 semesters)	\$300
<b>Total Cost</b>		

The Oasis Program will continue to provide partial funding for the program through self-defense equipment maintenance and securing the training space. The Women's Resource Center will continue to provide partial funding to cover the cost of printing workbooks for RAD self-defense participants. If the proposal is accepted, the Oasis Program will recognize the generosity of the UA Parents & Family Association through inclusion of the PFA logo on advertising materials and on the Oasis Program website.

### **Measurements of Success**

The Oasis Program will measure the success of RAD self-defense courses through the following methods:

- Tracking the number of requests received for self-defense training
- Counting the number of students who enroll in and complete each self-defense course
- Administering pre-and post-course evaluation to measure the students' feeling of confidence and knowledge of risk reduction and prevention methods

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal. We look forward to working with you in creating a safer campus community for the women of the University of Arizona.