

## Gabrielle Saunders

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**Issue** Utah has domestic violence and sexual abuse rates that are far above the national average. I have been working with South Valley Services and the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition to combat this issue.

Project Description My project, Project AWARE, started out as a fundraiser for South Valley Services to provide the women staying at the shelter with feminine hygiene products through a Rutgers University-sponsored club called Women In Action. I was able to get South Mountain Community Church involved with the fundraiser, which will promptly end on September 14th. Project AWARE has now turned into something greater, though. I have met with the Executive Directors of South Valley Services and the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, and we have had conversations about getting Alta High School and the members of Women in action involved in the legislative process to provide funding for education against domestic and sexual abuse. I have met with Sen. Wayne Niederhauser on the issue of how to develop support for garnering appropriations, and I will be meeting with Alta's administration to soon as well. In order to get the word out about my project I have used social media such as Facebook and Weebly, I have contacted Senators and Executive Directors of nonprofits who specialize in domestic violence, and I have reached out to my church community, which is over 2,000 members strong.

**Project Outcome** Project AWARE, though it still growing, has already managed to increase awareness and concern about domestic and sexual abuse, and it will only continue to do so.

**Request** 1. What would be the best methods to continue garnering support for appropriations to this cause? 2. Showing support for education against Domestic Violence.

Project Link <a href="http://wia-projectaware.weebly.com/">http://wia-projectaware.weebly.com/</a>