Inviting the Community to Unite Against Intimate Violence—The Clothesline Project Returns for its Third Year to Idaho Falls

Shirts made by survivors, families and friends hang in the College of Eastern Idaho’s Cafeteria

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — The Clothesline Project is set to make a powerful return to Idaho Falls for its third year, demonstrating its commitment to raising awareness about intimate violence. Hosted at University Place, this event is open to the public, welcoming survivors and honoring the memories of victims affected by intimate violence.

The Clothesline Project offers a platform for survivors who have experienced any form of intimate violence in their lives to come forward and design a t-shirt, expressing their unique stories through words and artwork. Victims’ families and friends are also encouraged to participate, emphasizing the importance of collective healing and support.

The community is warmly welcomed to attend this 3-day event at the Bennion Student Union Multipurpose Room at University Place in Idaho Falls. Those impacted by domestic violence are encouraged to design shirts for the clothesline on Tuesday, October 17th, from 11am to 2pm. Additional opportunities to design shirts will be available on Wednesday, October 18th, from 11am to 2pm, followed by a presentation and lunch at noon. The Clothesline will be open for viewing again on Thursday, October 19th, from 11am to 2pm, culminating with a special “Take Back the Night” March starting at 6pm.

"The purpose of the project is to shed light on a dark reality often hidden within our communities," stated Teena McBride, Executive Director of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center. "By amplifying the voices of survivors, we can bring the truth into the light, enabling us to confront and address the underlying forces that perpetuate this destructive epidemic, all while honoring the strength and resilience of those who bravely share their stories."

The concept of the Clothesline Project originated in Hyannis, Massachusetts, in 1990, driven by a startling revelation. During the same period when 58,000 soldiers lost their lives in the Vietnam War, 51,000 U.S. women were killed by individuals they trusted and loved. This shocking statistic propelled the creation of a program
dedicated to exposing the issue of violence against women. Artist Rachel Carey-Harper envisioned displaying color-coded t-shirts on a public clothesline to draw attention to this critical issue. Currently, there are an estimated 500 projects nationally and internationally, totaling approximately 50,000 to 60,000 shirts. These projects span across 41 states and 5 countries, illustrating the widespread impact of this grassroots movement.

The clothesline adorned with differently colored shirts serves multiple essential purposes. It serves as an educational tool, allowing visitors to understand the extent of the issue. Simultaneously, it acts as a healing tool for survivors and their support networks. By hanging a shirt on the line, they can symbolically release some of the pain tied to their experiences and move forward. Most importantly, it lets those suffering in silence realize they are not alone.

In collaboration with the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center (DVSAC), Idaho State University and various community partners, College of Eastern Idaho successfully hosted the inaugural Clothesline Project in October 2021. The turnout was overwhelming, with 30-40 shirts on display over a 3-day period. Many of these shirts were created by students and employees from CEI and ISU.

Different colors of shirts on display convey various forms of violence:
White: In memory of those lost to violence
Yellow: Survivor of physical assault/domestic violence
Red, Pink, Orange: Survivor of sexual abuse
Blue or Green: Survivor of childhood sexual abuse
Purple: Survivor of an attack due to sexual orientation
Brown or Gray: Survivor of emotional abuse

This year’s event is sponsored by DVSAC, Idaho State University, College of Eastern Idaho, and University of Idaho.

For More information about the event or interviews please contact:
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About College of Eastern Idaho
College of Eastern Idaho (CEI, formerly EITC), Idaho’s newest comprehensive community college, offers associate degrees, technical certificates, and workforce training programs to help students achieve their educational and career goals. With a focus on affordability, accessibility, and student success, CEI is dedicated to providing high-quality education and training to the residents of eastern Idaho. Visit [https://cei.edu](https://cei.edu) for more information.