SPEECH SCRIPT: Partnership Chattanooga

General Purpose: To persuade.

Specific Purpose: To increase awareness about Partnership’s cause and inspire locals and donors to volunteer or donate to aid Partnership’s mission. This is meant to be a 5-6 minute speech.

Central idea (thesis): April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We invite Chattanooga to “Start By Believing” and join us in taking part in April’s awareness events.

Introduction

1. When I close my eyes and picture the city I love, I see an iconic skyline with triangular points, illuminated by the sun setting over the Tennessee River.
2. There’s people strolling across the walking bridge on Saturday morning. People flooding the streets for the Bessie Smith strut. I think of Bo Cline, one of our oldest and last living veterans from World War II. I think of the McCallie family, relentless in their pursuits to culturally unite Chattanooga. I think about growth—where we’ve come from and where we’re going.
3. But when I open my eyes, I’m catapulted into an unimaginable juxtaposition.
4. On one side of the river, people are enjoying local produce masterfully and exquisitely prepared by nationally renowned chefs. Just miles down the road, there may be few or several women who’ve had a vastly opposing experience, who don’t see Chattanooga through the same lens as I do. They may feel unsafe, alone, unprotected, or may be victims of sexual abuse or violence. For many women in America, the single most dangerous place is her own home.

Body

1. Working alongside Partnership has granted me an opportunity to reflect on our mission, “empowering people and building communities.” Empowering women results in empowered and enriched communities and stronger economies, which is why Partnership has served 1,065 victims of domestic violence this past year.
2. Partnership is devoted to providing the women in our community and surrounding counties with several emergency services to promote stabilization and long-term self-sufficiency.
   1. We’ve recently added a 24/7 crisis online hotline, and have continued with our crisis counseling and support group programs. Our crisis resource center is very much dedicated to providing safe, emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence.
3. This April, for National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we’re focused on the safety and well-being of the women among us.
4. For April’s Awareness Events, Partnership joined the “Start By Believing campaign,” a national campaign designed to change the way we respond to sexual assault. “Start By Believing” stresses that when someone tells you they were raped or sexually assaulted, knowing how to respond is critical. We need to validate, empathize, and be aware of the resources offered to direct them to the right place. A negative response can worsen the trauma and foster an environment where perpetrators face no consequences for their crimes.
5. The goals of the campaign are to break down traditional barriers of shame and fear, so victims can gather information, explore options, and take action.
6. To do this, Partnership is offering several free events along with community partners to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Events include workshops, trauma informed yoga, artful meditation and RISE 2019, an awards dinner featuring keynote speaker Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, who empowered more than 150 women to speak out against U.S.A. Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar and sentenced Nassar up to 175 years in prison.
7. I am also excited to tell you that Partnership has recently taken a leadership role in two developing programs, Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and Domestic Violence Response Team (DART). These two programs pull together multi-disciplinary approaches from legal, governmental, and social service entities to collaborate, communicate, and coordinate local efforts to serve victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.
8. As you may know, the majority of our funding comes from Local, State and Federal Grants. However, we need your support to fully fund our programs and sustain our mission. We are grateful for your support and contribution this past year and how your investment has impacted the lives of others. It is because of your continued support that Partnership has been able to serve our community. We appreciative and are strongly accountable for your investment.

Conclusion

1. We are undeniably passionate about the work we are doing in our community, and we are well aware we can’t do it alone. Together, in partnership with our faithful supporters, strong community leaders, dedicated social service agencies, and *you,*
2. we *will* stop the violence plaguing the town we love. Working as partners, we *will* see broken people find empowerment. Together, we *will* build strong, healthy communities to sustain the future of Chattanooga.