

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, youth are the number one victims of all violent crime of any population group in the U.S. To reduce the risk of victimization, The Joyful Child's BRAVE Programs educate children and teens about personal safety through age-appropriate content that develops each student's ability to recognize potential dangers, verbalize discomfort or a need for help, and physically defend against sexual abuse, violence, and abduction.

WHAT EVERY TEEN AND PARENT SHOULD KNOW

- Over 800,000 children are reported missing every year.
- 1 in 4-5 girls and 1 in 7-10 boys are victims of sexual misconduct before age 18.
- The largest group of victims of sexual assault are girls ages 15-24, but it happens to males, too!
- 150,000 - 300,000 American youth are trafficked each year. More than half of these children are either runaways or are homeless.
 - 1/3 of all runaway/homeless youth are solicited for sex within 48 hours.
 - Traffickers target victims in malls, coffee shops, parties, anywhere young people gather, and they prey on insecurity, a need to feel wanted, and those who lack parental involvement or support.
- Over 80% of all victims of violent crime know the perpetrator.
- Children aged 11 to 17 are equally vulnerable to sexual abuse and abduction as younger children.
- 1/3 of convicted sex offenders are youth.

It is never your fault if someone tries to hurt or trick you



In Loving Memory of
Samantha Runion
July 26, 1996—July 15, 2002
Samantha's Motto:
"BE BRAVE"

- Be **B**rave - Be Safe.
- Be **R**eady by planning ahead.
- Be **A**ware of your surroundings.
- Be **V**ictorious and stand up for yourself.
- Be **E**mpowered to stop violence.



BRAVE WORKSHOP

K-6th Grade Topics

- Emergency Plan (9-1-1)
Safe Adults
- Separation from
Adults Tricks
- Privacy and Personal
Information
- Good, Bad and
Unwanted Touch
- BRAVE Plans to Resist
Bullying, Violence, or
Abduction
- Physical Defense Skills to
Distract and Escape

6th-8th Grade Additional Topics

- Technology Safety
- Safety with Friends
- Physical Defense Skills

9th - 12th Grade Additional Topics

- Questionable Behaviors
- Human Trafficking
- Physical Defense Skills

The Joyful Child Foundation - In Memory of Samantha Runnion is dedicated to preventing crimes against children through programs that educate, empower, and unite families and communities.

Our goal is to reach and teach every child to be brave and safe.

Donations support bringing BRAVE Workshops to children and families living in transitional or very low- income housing; e.g. shelters for homeless or those escaping domestic violence. The Joyful Child's programs focus on proactive approaches to preventing violence against children. With your help, we can raise awareness about the problem of violence against young people as well as offer solutions and skills for safety.

High School BRAVE Clubs may host BRAVE Workshops for teens and parents at their schools and/or facilitate their own awareness campaigns about topics such as: Human Trafficking, Bullying, Internet Safety, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault Prevention, Personal Safety & Self-Defense. To start a BRAVE Club at your school, email volunteer@thejoyfulchild.org.

SAFETY TIPS FOR TEENS

SIGNS THAT SOMEONE MAY BE DANGEROUS:

1. Ignores your response when you say, "No."
2. Quickly assumes an intimate friendship.
3. Sends inappropriate images, videos, or messages.
4. Tries to get your personal information, pictures, or asks you personal questions.
5. Asks you to keep secrets from and/or to spend less time with your family and friends.

YOU ARE VULNERABLE WHEN:

1. You feel isolated or alone (you don't feel you have anyone you can trust to talk with.)
2. You need to feel wanted or special.
3. You get embarrassed easily (not likely to tell if someone is inappropriate with you.)
4. You don't trust adults can or will protect you.
5. You're afraid of retaliation if someone is hurtful toward you.
6. You need to test boundaries and rules.
7. You abuse alcohol and/or drugs.
8. You don't think anything bad can happen if you don't worry about it.
9. You don't tell anyone when you're feeling sad or worried.
10. You're so nice, you're afraid to say "NO!" or be rude even if you don't feel safe.

YOU ARE SAFER WHEN:

1. You are aware with eyes & ears alert to your surroundings.
2. You always let someone know where you are and when you leave.
3. You have a BRAVE Plan when you are out:
 - Stay in well-lit, public places.
 - Have your phone charged.
 - Have a code with family and friends.
 - Always watch your drinks!
 - Get away from anyone who makes you uncomfortable.
4. Make eye contact and use a loud voice.
5. You are brave and tell someone if something/someone seems weird or makes you afraid.