



YOUTH LEADING

SafeBAE's Expanding Network for Change

Midyear Impact Report — January 2025 – August 2025



A LETTER FROM SAFEBAE LEADERSHIP

As we approach **SafeBAE's 10-year anniversary**, we're reflecting on the progress we've made and the opportunities and challenges ahead. The first eight months of 2025 have brought meaningful growth and new strategic partnerships that are expanding our reach and deepening our impact.

Our peer-educator network has grown from roughly 1,300 youth leaders in January to over 2,100 by August. We've strengthened relationships across schools, universities, public health agencies, and national coalitions.

These partnerships enabled our largest-ever Summer Activist Institute, the launch of a whole-school prevention initiative with Alliance College-Ready Public Schools in Los Angeles, deeper campus collaboration with Manhattanville University's Center for Design Thinking, and contributions to national conversations on youth safety and prevention — including our service on HopSkipDrive's National Safety Advisory Council.

At the same time, we are operating in a challenging environment. Sudden federal cuts to prevention funding, increased political hostility toward consent education, and the abrupt termination of a major state-funded program have underscored how vital it is to have partners who stand firmly with us, and with the young people leading this work.

This year also marks five years since Daisy's passing. Daisy's courage, vision, and relentless advocacy remain embedded in our mission. As we look toward our next decade, we carry her legacy forward — ensuring that youth continue to lead the movement and transform culture.



OUR IMPACT

By The Numbers: January – August 2025



2,100+ youth trained as Certified Peer Educators
(Up from 1,400 at the start of the year)



1,250+ professionals trained — prevention specialists, educators, victim advocates, attorneys, counselors, clergy, and more



50+ classroom sessions, workshops, and presentations delivered nationwide



230K Followers 1M+ Impressions across all social media platforms

OUR DATA

SafeBAE's youth-led programming was the subject of a published study in the *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse* — marking a significant milestone in the recognition of student-designed prevention efforts.

Authored by Brown University researchers Dr. Lindsay Orchowski and Dr. Prachi Bhuptani, the article, "[Preliminary Evaluation of the SafeBAE Youth-Developed Sexual Violence Prevention Summit](#)," highlights SafeBAE as a national model for peer-led prevention, noting that our programs demonstrate "the value of engaging youth in developing sexual assault prevention efforts for their peers" (2024).



+28% increase in confidence understanding consent



+33% increase in knowing how to support a survivor



+28% increase in knowing where to find support resources



+43% increase in awareness of key rights

Statistically significant changes were observed across all core indicators, demonstrating the measurable impact of SafeBAE's youth-led prevention model.

NYC PEER EDUCATOR TRAINING PROGRAM



In 2025, SafeBAE's New York City team worked hands-on in high schools across all five boroughs. Our NYC Schools Liaisons coordinated outreach, co-facilitated workshops, built student-led clubs, and mentored new leaders so that consent education and survivor support became part of school culture.

Through sessions at major gatherings like the NYC Gay-Straight Alliance Conference, we connected with hundreds of students and staff citywide, recruiting new club leaders from schools we had never reached before. Partnerships with community pillars like Harlem Children's Zone opened doors to engage young people in spaces where peer-led prevention is most needed.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: HECTOR



Hector first encountered SafeBAE in 2023 at the Spark LEAD Conference in Washington, D.C., where he attended a workshop on preventing sexual violence in schools. It was a turning point — he applied to the Summer Activist Institute, became a Certified Peer Educator, launched a SafeBAE club at his high school, and began mentoring other youth leaders interested in prevention.

In 2025, as a NYC Schools Liaison, Hector presented to thousands of students across the city, inspiring peers to start clubs, lead workshops, and integrate prevention into their own communities.

“Students hear me because I’m like them — I’m their age. I’ve had students DM me after a talk to say, ‘You’re the reason I started a club,’ or, ‘I showed my friend what you posted and now we’re getting involved.’”

Hector's leadership has sparked a ripple effect of action across NYC schools, reaching more than 7,100 students in 2025 alone.

AMPLIFYING YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACROSS RHODE ISLAND



In Rhode Island, our partnerships with public health agencies and community organizations are amplifying youth leadership and embedding sexual violence prevention into local systems.

The Rhode Island Women's Foundation's *Rhode Island Girls* report — a roadmap for action on issues like safety, wellness, poverty, and housing — recognized SafeBAE as a key solution for reducing relationship violence through youth-led education and advocacy. As part of the report's release, youth leaders joined advocates at International Day of the Girl to share their vision for safer, healthier communities.



Our work here was poised to grow dramatically in 2025 through a partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Health, launching our SafeBAE 360° whole-school prevention model in high schools across the state. This expansion was to be led by a local youth liaison — a role designed to ensure year-round presence and peer-led programming in Rhode Island schools.

That opportunity, and the reach it promised, was abruptly cut short when a federal funding source for the program was terminated as part of broader rollbacks on prevention.

"We encourage additional investment in SafeBAE's work to ensure that Rhode Island's young people are not left without these critical supports. Their team has demonstrated both the capacity and community trust required to make lasting change, and we are confident that additional funding will allow them to deliver measurable, meaningful impact across the state."

**— Jolayemi Ahamiojie, Injury Prevention Program
Manager, Rhode Island Department of Health**



YOUTH LEADER SPOTLIGHT: VAL



V's journey with SafeBAE began at the Rhode Island Nurses Institute (RINI), where our 360° whole-school prevention model was first implemented. As a student, she attended programming, completed the Certified Peer Educator Training, and quickly became a trusted voice among her peers. That initial investment in bringing prevention education and leadership opportunities to her school opened the door for V to step into a role she hadn't imagined.

Her leadership grew from leading consent and bystander intervention workshops to co-delivering sessions at the Rhode Island Conference on Youth Sexual Health Education alongside SafeBAE Executive Director Shael Norris. She later took the stage for International Day of the Girl, representing SafeBAE and inspiring youth leaders to act in their own communities.

Inspired by her experiences with SafeBAE, V has decided to pursue a career as a forensic nurse at Rhode Island College, aspiring to become a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). Her story shows how one school partnership can ignite opportunities that empower youth to lead lasting change.



ADVOCACY & SYSTEMS CHANGE PARTNERSHIPS

MASSACHUSETTS – HEALTHY YOUTH SUMMIT



In Massachusetts, SafeBAE helped plan the Healthy Youth Summit, hosted by the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking. SafeBAE Fellows led a workshop, "How Students Can Lead", sharing concrete strategies for building peer-led prevention programs in schools.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

ARTURO ROSADO TAVERAS

Arturo attended the Summer Activist Institute in 2023 and returned in both 2024 and 2025 as a youth mentor, guiding new cohorts of fellows through their own leadership journeys. A skilled facilitator, he led consent workshops for the entire freshman class at Central Catholic High School (MA) and extended SafeBAE's reach into the wider community, creating spaces for peers to learn, lead, and take action.

His leadership and academic excellence were recently recognized when he was accepted into the Union College Posse Program on a full scholarship.

Arturo now joins SafeBAE's Board of Directors, bringing his voice and vision to the next chapter of our work.



DORIE MCNAMARA

Dorie first connected with SafeBAE when we presented at her school during her sophomore year. Inspired to take action, she completed our Certified Peer Educator training, launched a SafeBAE club on campus, and led her peers in raising over \$500 for local domestic violence shelters. Recognizing gaps in survivor support at her school she successfully advocated for her school to begin the process of appointing a Title IX Coordinator. In recognition of her leadership, Dorie received her school's senior award for advocacy as leader of her SafeBAE club

and will continue her work as a member of SafeBAE's Board.



OUR WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH: SAFEBAE 360°

CHANGING SCHOOL CULTURE, ONE CAMPUS AT A TIME



SafeBAE 360° is our comprehensive, multi-year prevention model that works at every level of a school community — empowering students, training staff, engaging parents, and guiding policy reform to create a culture where sexual violence prevention is top priority.

In 2025, our ability to scale this work took a major leap forward when we were accepted into the [Launch Innovation Accelerator](#), hosted by RTI International in partnership with national funders and sector leaders. This opportunity brings new funding, strategic coaching, and a national peer network to strengthen and expand SafeBAE 360° across the country.

A NEW SCHOOL PARTNER

We launched a three-year district-wide partnership bringing SafeBAE 360° to all 26 Alliance school sites. In spring 2025, our team visited three campuses, engaging over 300 students through interactive workshops, training 10 new Certified Peer Educators, and welcoming three students from the district to the Summer Activist Institute. These student leaders will be working alongside SafeBAE staff to lead school presentations and events throughout the upcoming fall and spring, reaching and influencing their entire school communities through their advocacy.

ALLIANCE COLLEGE-READY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (LOS ANGELES, CA)



SYSTEMS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



HOPSKIPDRIVE'S SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Whole-school safety includes how students get to and from school. SafeBAE serves on [HopSkipDrive's National Safety Advisory Council](#), advising on rider-safety policies and like ride guidelines and multi-rider trip protocols, so the system is trauma-informed, survivor-centered, and protective of students' needs. This cross-sector work embeds prevention beyond classroom walls and into services families rely on every day, improving access to school, resources, and support.

TRAINING & EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONALS

In 2025, we shared our youth-led prevention model with educators, legal advocates, service providers, and caregivers — so the adults around young people can better engage youth, support survivors, and embed prevention in everyday practice.

VICTIM RIGHTS LAW CENTER (VRLC) — YOUTH IN EDUCATION SETTINGS (YES) PROJECT

Audience: Legal advocates & attorneys (K-12)

We developed and delivered a training series focused on building capacity for advocates and attorneys to support survivors in K-12 and higher education settings. This series offered novel ways for advocates to better understand the specific challenges for young survivors and better support them.



ILLINOIS COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

Audience: Statewide survivor/victim service providers

We led a 3-part virtual intensive on effective youth engagement in prevention — reaching 200+ practitioners across 45 direct-service agencies. These sessions focused on peer-led models, youth-leadership, power-sharing, and program sustainability.



TRAINING & EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONALS

NOVA 51ST ANNUAL TRAINING EVENT — WHY WE ADVOCATE

Audience: National survivor/victim service providers

Presented “Tech for Good: Building Community-Centered, Digital Resources to Prevent Sexual Violence and Digital Abuse.” 300+ attendees explored practical digital safety, youth co-creation, and trust-building online.

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL): TAKING FLIGHT — WEBINAR

Audience: Educators, parents, clergy, faith communities

Presented on teen sexual assault prevention for Our Whole Lives (OWL) audiences — centering consent, bystander skills, and how to partner with youth leaders.

SEX ED LECTURE SERIES

Audience: Sex-ed practitioners & youth-serving staff

Delivered “Youth-Led Dating Violence Prevention Education,” offering a concrete playbook for building and supporting student peer-education teams.

TRAINING PARTNERS



MEDIA FEATURES



THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Our Kids Cannot Learn About Sex Just From Squeamish Gym Teachers”

Featured in this January 2025 opinion piece and the accompanying NYT Opinion podcast episode The Most Important Lesson in Sex Ed Isn't Actually Sex, highlighting SafeBAE's peer-led consent education model and why students are the most effective messengers for prevention.

THE LABIA LOUNGE

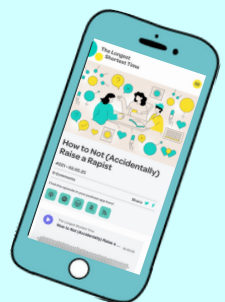
“Sexual Violence Prevention in Schools with SafeBAE”

A candid conversation on building authentic, youth-driven prevention and meeting young people where they are — exploring how SafeBAE partners with students to create systemic change in school environments.

THE LONGEST SHORTEST TIME

“How to Not (Accidentally) Raise a Rapist”

First episode of the relaunch of the popular parenting and culture podcast, featuring SafeBAE's work and Executive Director Shael Norris on what actually works when talking to teens about consent, and how schools and parents can build a consent-conscious culture. The title is a nod to one of the show's most downloaded episodes, How to Not (Accidentally) Raise a Racist, reframed here to spark conversation about raising young people who respect boundaries and safety.



SHAPING THE NATIONAL CONVERSATION

WE'RE BRINGING YOUTH-LED PREVENTION INTO MAINSTREAM OUTLETS AND BUILDING DIGITAL SPACES WHERE STUDENTS LEAD THE CONVERSATION.



YOUTH-LED DIGITAL CAMPAIGNS

SIECUS WEEK OF ACTION – “UNFILTERED: YOUTH SPEAK OUT ON SEX ED” INSTAGRAM LIVE

As part of the [2025 SIECUS Sex Ed Week of Action](#), SafeBAE received a mini-grant to host *Unfiltered: Youth Speak Out on Sex Ed*, an Instagram Live event exploring what's missing from most sex education programs and how they can be improved.

The session was hosted by SafeBAE youth leaders Joyce Onana Mfege and Apollo Knapp, joined by guest expert Tara Jones (Founder and Executive Director of The Youth Sexpert Program). Apollo, a Midwestern/Appalachian advocate, prevention facilitator, and certified peer educator, brought insights from leading workshops and teaching comprehensive sexual health to students. Joyce, a junior at Spelman College and UNCF Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, drew from her experience mentoring peer educators through SafeBAE and her broader work in reproductive justice. Together, they facilitated a candid discussion, responded to audience questions, and shared experiences from diverse school settings.





MANHATTANVILLE UNIVERSITY

***A HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
ELEVATING YOUTH LEADERSHIP***

SafeBAE partnered with **Manhattanville University's Center for Design Thinking** to host its 4th Annual Summer Activist Institute. This collaboration brought new dimensions to the program — from a hands-on design thinking for social change session led by Manhattanville leadership to providing complimentary professional headshots for all of our youth leaders. Fellows learned the principles of design thinking, gaining practical tools to develop prevention strategies that are both creative and actionable, preparing them to make a meaningful impact in their schools and communities.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JAE



Jae is a youth leader at SafeBAE and a second-year biology major at Manhattanville University. As a member of the Summer Activist Institute planning committee, she played a key role in the program's success — helping to create promotional materials for recruitment, engaging the campus community, planning logistics, and filming and producing content throughout the week. Her leadership bridged SafeBAE's youth network with Manhattanville's resources, demonstrating the accelerating impact of this collaboration and the potential for higher education partnerships to strengthen youth-led prevention.

WHY THIS PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

Partnering with an established institution like Manhattanville University expands SafeBAE's reach and influence by anchoring our youth-led work within a respected higher education setting that shares our values of equity, leadership, and social change. A designated Hispanic-Serving Institution, Manhattanville is home to a diverse student body, with over a third identifying as first-generation, and is ranked the #1 private college for social mobility in New York. This alignment, and Manhattanville's clear history of and commitment to social justice — especially for the communities we work to empower — makes this collaboration especially powerful. Through this partnership, SafeBAE fellows gain clear pathways to continue their education, leadership, and advocacy, while Manhattanville invests in developing socially conscious leaders prepared to make meaningful contributions to their communities and professions.

SUMMER ACTIVIST INSTITUTE

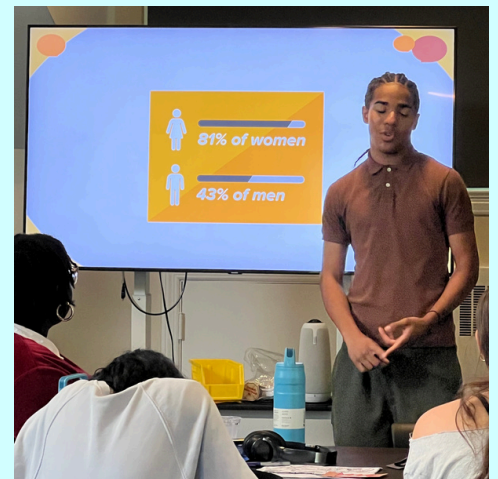
***Building the Next Generation
of Prevention Leaders***

The 2025 Summer Activist Institute brought together our largest-ever cohort of students from across the country for five days of intensive leadership training, skills development, and community building. Hosted at Manhattanville University's Center for Design Thinking, the Institute prepared fellows to return to their schools ready to lead prevention efforts, strengthen survivor support, and shift school culture toward safety and respect.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Design Thinking for Social Change workshop led by Manhattanville faculty, providing tools to create innovative and actionable prevention strategies.
- Engaging Boys and Men in Prevention dialogue co-facilitated by alum Arturo Rosado Taveras and board member Will Rivera.
- School Policy Deep Dives on Title IX compliance, survivor-centered policy reform, and effective bystander intervention.
- Professional Development sessions including LinkedIn tutorials, resume-building, networking skills, and complimentary professional headshots.
- Fun and Community-Building Activities such as scavenger hunts, beach days, tie-dye, staff bingo, and musical ballads that strengthened relationships and fostered peer support.



By the end of the week, all participants became Certified SafeBAE Peer Educators and will go on to launch or grow SafeBAE clubs, deliver workshops to students, parents, and educators, represent SafeBAE at conferences and public events, and mentor future Institute cohorts — ensuring youth leadership in prevention continues to expand nationwide.

YOUTH-LED, YOUTH-DESIGNED

Each year, we update and improve our materials and resources to stay connected with — and relevant to — youth. At this year's Institute, the cohort led SafeBAE's branding refresh, bringing the vision, creativity, and feedback that will ensure our look, feel, and messaging authentically reflect the voices and values of the young people that lead our work.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: STANLEY

The 2025 Institute was made possible through the generous support of the Stanley Creators Fund. In addition to funding, they provided Stanley water bottles for every participant — an awesome takeaway for all of our fellows and a lasting reminder of the partnership that fuels this work and our shared commitment to building safer schools and communities.



ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

EXPANDING OUR LEADERSHIP NETWORK

SafeBAE's Board of Directors is two-thirds youth, ensuring those most impacted by our work shape our programs and priorities. This year, we welcomed new youth and adult members with expertise in education, public health, prevention, and survivor-centered systems change. The youth — featured in spotlights throughout this report — are already leading prevention in their schools and communities, while new adult members Lisa Hoopis and Will Rivera bring added perspective and connections to strengthen our capacity and expand our reach.

WILL RIVERA



Managing Director, MyOwn Image

Will Rivera is a nationally recognized advocate and thought leader in sexual violence prevention, digital safety, and survivor-centered crisis response. With nearly two decades of experience in human services, he brings deep expertise in trauma-informed care, policy advocacy, and systems change. As the former Executive Director of the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA), Will led statewide advocacy campaigns, secured critical funding for survivor services, and oversaw 70 programs serving hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. His leadership spans direct service, grassroots mobilization, and crisis response — managing 24/7 teams, launching statewide initiatives, and driving impact in both rural and urban communities. He now serves as Managing Director of MyOwn Image, a nonprofit addressing tech-facilitated abuse and intimate privacy, and contributes to global digital safety efforts through the Cybersecurity Advisors Network. At SafeBAE, Will provides strategic guidance to strengthen national prevention efforts and advance youth-led change.

LISA HOOPIS

Student Success Coach & Adjunct Professor, Rhode Island College

Lisa Hoopis has dedicated her career to advancing inclusive, comprehensive sexuality education and interpersonal violence prevention. She currently serves as a Student Success Coach and Adjunct Professor at Rhode Island College, where she works closely with school districts and agencies to deliver professional and youth development, curriculum development, and training.

Previously, Lisa was the Director of Education and Community Programs at Sojourner House, where she led prevention and education initiatives across Rhode Island. She is a co-founder and active member of the RI HIV/STI Prevention Coalition and a member of the RI Cross Campus Collaborative to Prevent Sexual Assault. Lisa is also a certified curriculum developer, trainer, and evaluator, and co-chair of the RI Crime Victim Service Providers. She brings deep experience in higher education leadership, community engagement, and creating trauma-informed, inclusive educational spaces.



YOUTH LEADERS JOINING THE BOARD

Our Board continues to center youth leadership. This year's new youth members are already making their mark through the work featured in this report.

Dorie
McNamara

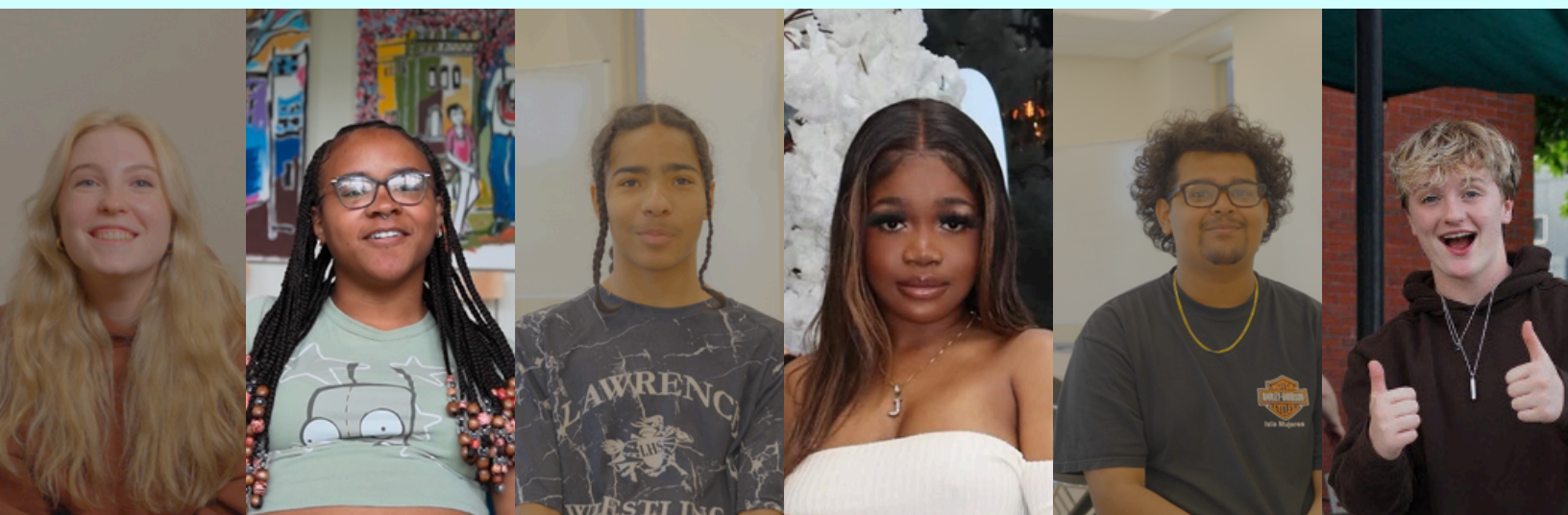
Cierra
'V' Odiembo

Arturo
Rosado Taveras

Joyce
Onana

Hector
Jaco

Apollo
Knapp



HONORING DAISY

FIVE YEARS ON, HER LEGACY LIVES IN THE WORK

This August marks five years since the passing of Daisy Coleman, SafeBAE's co-founder. Daisy helped ignite a youth-led movement for consent education and survivor support, and her example continues to shape how we show up for students today.

Her story continues to reverberate — carried forward by us and by communities across the country.



“WHAT DAISY COLEMAN CHANGED”

DECEMBER 10, 2020 *THE CUT*

"Revisiting Daisy's story now, I'm struck by the sense that she helped catalyze a movement that came too late for her."

The outrage over what happened in Maryville and Steubenville resulted in a furious national discussion about sexual violence, power, accountability, drinking and consent, police negligence, and our immense hostility towards women as a culture. It is a furious national discussion we keep having, in different versions and variations, to the point of near-exhaustion — but one that seems to be straining, at least, toward a place of more understanding, of increased solidarity with victims.

All the organizing that happened after Daisy spoke out may not necessarily be a direct result but is certainly a ripple effect: the new campus anti-rape movement, followed by the backlash over Brock Turner, followed by the sudden ubiquity of MeToo as both a hashtag and a rallying cry."

HONORING DAISY

FIVE YEARS ON, HER LEGACY LIVES IN THE WORK

Dear SafeBAE Team,

I hope this message finds you in peace and strength.

I'm writing on behalf of our team to say something we deeply feel: Daisy Coleman's name is still being said. Her story is still being told. And it won't stop here — not now, not ever.

Daisy's courage, her pain, and her voice have left an indelible mark on us, and on so many others. While her loss is heartbreaking beyond words, her impact is immeasurable. Through her, so many of us found the language to speak our truths and the strength to believe we are not alone.

We recently held our "It's Not in Your Jeans" workshop at the YWCA, and the response was overwhelming. Nearly every participant wanted to put Daisies on their jeans — not just as a symbol, but as a statement. Because Daisy means something. Because we believe her. And we believe in the world she fought for — one where survivors are heard, protected, and honored.

Please know that we carry her story with us. It moves through our work, our words, and our hearts. Daisy's legacy is alive in every teen who finds strength through SafeBAE. And we'll continue to tell her story — until we can't anymore.

With deep gratitude and solidarity,
YWCA Saint Joseph



“Stay strong, sweetheart.”
– Daisy



OUR NEXT DECADE STARTS NOW

In 2026, SafeBAE will celebrate ten years of youth-led prevention. Over the past decade, we've grown from a small team of survivor-activists into a national network of more than 2,000 trained peer educators, school and district partners in multiple states, and collaborations with public health agencies, higher education, industry leaders, community organizations, and national media. These partnerships give us a unique opportunity to scale our impact in ways that were unimaginable when we began. As we mark this milestone, we are not just reflecting on our progress; we are seizing the momentum to expand our reach and deepen our influence.

WHAT'S NEXT

THE YEAR AHEAD

- Joining the Denim Day 5K as an official charity partner in Los Angeles, New York City, Austin, Nashville, and Washington, D.C. (& hopefully many more!), alongside 20 other organizations, with a goal of engaging thousands of participants and raising funds to support survivor-led prevention.
- Strengthening our partnership with Manhattanville University to expand SafeBAE's programming, provide new leadership opportunities for students, and connect our fellows to postsecondary and professional pathways.
- Leveraging new and ongoing collaborations, from state coalitions to national media, to open more doors for youth to lead prevention in their schools and communities.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED

- **Continue leading in school-based prevention** by expanding SafeBAE 360° into more districts nationwide, prioritizing low-income and rural communities, and creating a scalable, sustainable model that meets the needs of diverse student populations.
- **Grow corporate and industry partnerships** to integrate youth safety and consent education into workplaces, products, and services that directly impact young people.
- **Shape media and cultural narratives** to transform how society understands and addresses sexual violence, using our youth leadership model to influence public conversation and drive lasting cultural change.

