

Dare To Dream!

The 5th Annual Dare to Dream event was held in October 2019. The purpose of the event is to help prevent human trafficking by educating those who are most vulnerable -- young girls between the ages of 11-14. We designed this program to help girls understand what human trafficking is, to learn specific skills for staying safe and to help them reflect on their true value and worth.

We use local volunteers to work at hair, nail and make-up stations. A gift bag of goodies and keepsakes are given to each Dream Girl. There is an inspirational crafts table. Student volunteers from the local high schools come to support the "Dream Girls" and act as mentors.

Soroptimist International of Marysville-Yuba City (SIMYC) takes care of the venue, theme, décor, lunch, speakers and gifts.

SIMYC collaborate with counselors at local middle schools to invite 'at risk' girls and work with their parents to make sure they were safely transported to and from the event.

The morning of the event, the Dream Girls are matched with high school mentors (trained before the event on how to speak with the Dream Girls). The Dream Girls are treated to manicures, very light make up, hair styling and craft making all while enjoying morning snacks.

At lunch, the girls walk into a beautifully decorated room and received a nice banquet lunch and special dessert. In 2019 we had three presentations. They included; a presentation on the prevention of human trafficking, oral care from a local female dentist and how it affects our overall health (she also provided a little goodie bag), and a professional female clown who discussed how she overcame many obstacles in a predominately male profession to realize her career dream, all while making balloon animals that represented a twist, turn or different perspective can change how you see yourself.

The Dream Girls are presented with a necklace with an inspirational saying from the high school mentors. We also provide a gift bag for the mentors.

Each year we hear back from the school counselors involved that those in attendance speak quite positively about their Dream Day experience. Because volunteers from SIMYC, our local community, and high school students are willing to share their time and themselves with these at risk girls, there are many more young girls in our community today who have heard the message that they are valuable, they have a purpose to fulfill in the world, they can achieve their dreams, and their worth comes not from what others say about them but from who they are!

In addition, they have learned specific skills to be aware and stay safe from exploitation.

