

# CIF FEATURE STORY:

## Outreach Education & Awareness Program

April 2019



### FEATURE STORY: Outreach Education and Awareness Program; Envision Counselling and Support Centre Inc.

The Outreach Education and Awareness program offers presentations on healthy relationships and interpersonal violence in Weyburn, Estevan, and surrounding rural communities. Presentations are developed in-house, using the curriculum of the school division, and topics are chosen to reflect the age group and maturity of each grade. Based on best practices, the Outreach Educator visits each classroom three times with different presentations. **“These are unique presentations specifically designed for students in our region. By visiting each classroom three times, the students have an opportunity to expand their knowledge of topics that may be new to them over a period of time as each presentation builds on the one previous,”** shared Christa Daku, Executive Director.

Reaching students in grades 7-10, this program is available throughout Southeast Saskatchewan (27,000 km squared) with a focus on Weyburn, Estevan, and surrounding rural communities and has partnered with local schools since the fall of 2015. **“This program is important since there is no other organization offering prevention programming for students that explores themes such as dating violence, sexual assault, consent and healthy relationships. As an organization that specializes in interpersonal violence and sees how it impact rural communities, we have the distinct opportunity to shape the material to relate specifically to what the students may be experiencing in their school or community,”** stated Daku.

Creating an open discussion of how to create healthy relationships is important to engage youth and reduce stigma. This program has increased the wellbeing of communities by increasing the understanding and awareness of what violence looks like in relationships and also creates awareness for interpersonal violence and what options are available rurally for those who may need support. **“Envision Counselling and Support Centre is very grateful for the partnership of Community Initiatives Fund. Without grants and sponsorships we would be unable to provide our vast array of services to our local communities,”** shared Daku.

“It shows that you don't always see that you're in an unhealthy relationship and you get to see the signs that lead to an abusive relationship.”

- Grade 8 Student, Unhealthy Relationships presentation.

“The presenter was very real and approachable. The material was relevant to the class being taken and to the students' lives.”

- Teacher evaluation, Grade 9/10.



Envision Counselling Outreach Educator in the classroom in Estevan, providing prevention education to students. Photo credit: Envision Counselling