



ESPERANZA DANCE PROJECT

PRESS KIT

GENERAL CONTACT Please contact Esperanza Dance Project at **esperanzadanceproject@gmail.com** for scheduling performances, articles, general information and administration. We would love to hear from you.



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 www.facebook.com/esperanzadanceproject
 [@esperanzadanceaz](https://www.instagram.com/esperanzadanceaz)  [@esperanzadanz](https://twitter.com/esperanzadanz)
 www.youtube.com/user/EDPPPerformingHope





ESPERANZA DANCE PROJECT

Our Mission is to eradicate stigma, secrecy and shame associated with surviving childhood sexual violence.

VISION, & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our Vision is that all high school students in Arizona learn to recognize warning signs associated with sexual abuse, feel comfortable discussing it openly and compassionately, and become familiar with local resources for support.

Our Guiding Principles

- To address childhood sexual violence through dance, music, spoken word and visual art & film in a way that empowers teens.
- To provide tools for discussion and understanding through a study guide, written by behavioral health professionals.
- To provide local information about ongoing peer advocacy and support connections in the community.



based in
Tucson, Arizona



Founded in 2011



recognized
501(c)3 Non Profit

OBJECTIVES

- **Inspire** hope for healing
- **Teach** skills to support survivors
- **Raise awareness** about childhood sexual violence
- **Provide resources** for support both local and national

WHAT WE DO

- **Present** multimedia school assemblies and facilitate meaningful conversations about sexual violence for high school students.
- **Provide** every student with educational curriculum and resources
- **Create** space for community healing

Ultimately, the goal of the Project is to breathe **hope** and courage into the lives of those who have experienced the trauma of sexual violence.



ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

Esperanza Dance Project is a community-based collaboration that uses a multimedia dance performance to educate about the issue of childhood sexual violence and deliver a message of hope, strength and empowerment.

Established in 2011 by Beth Braun, who through her own personal challenges, along with her life's work in dance, believes in the transformative healing power of movement and dance. From its inception, EDP has been a collaborative effort. Bringing together local professionals in the behavioral health community, along with local artists, poets, educators and high school counselors, this project was created to spread a message of hope.

EDP is a project based on the integration of art, education, social activism and behavioral health. Community engagement, collaboration and partnership exists at the core of the project on multiple levels.

The Project was created specifically with high school students in mind and although people of all ages are strongly impacted by the performances, reaching youth remains our focus. As our main audience is young adults, we perform primarily in traditional high schools, charter schools, community colleges, universities, treatment centers, conferences and community events.

EDP integrates dance, music and spoken word into a powerful performance assembly entitled "House of Hope," that gives high school students an accessible way of understanding sexual violence as it relates to their everyday lives. Following each performance, the performers facilitate a meaningful Question & Answer session for conversations with the audience where questions and concerns are addressed directly.

Each dancer, board member and intern participates in a Peer Advocate Training, giving them the information, tools and skills to be effective and compassionate advocates to survivors of sexual violence.

EDP believes that prevention can only happen when we eradicate stigma, support survivors, educate our community and open the doors to engaging in authentic conversation.



SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Multimedia Performance “House of Hope”

Esperanza Dance Project presents school assemblies for high school students. The performance, entitled “House of Hope”, runs about 45 minutes. Once booked for a performance, EDP works with the school contact to determine the best possible performance space. Annual performances of “House of Hope” & Fundraiser open to the general public each November.

Community Outreach

Understanding the power of community, EDP partners with local organizations, businesses and events such as Take Back the Night, One Billion Rising, the SLUT Walk with the Women’s Resource Center and the Tucson Women’s March. Additional collaborations have been with the WomanKraft Art Center, Emerge! Center Against Domestic Violence and Stand Up for Humanity. EDP has also performed beyond the in Prescott, Phoenix and Tempe.

Performance Opportunities & Apprentice Company

EDP performers meet bi-weekly for rehearsal and technique class. Performances occur throughout each season from August to May. Recently an apprentice company was established as an opportunity for less experienced movers to gain the skills necessary to perform with the project.

Provide Resources

Each study guide has an updated list of local and national resources for both primary and secondary survivors of sexual violence. Additional resources and information available on our website at www.esperanzadanceproject.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Additional volunteer opportunities are available for members of the community who wish to participate. From fundraising committees, community event participation to social media, EDP has many options for those who wish to be involved.

Peer Advocacy Training

Each dancer, board member and intern participate in a Peer Advocate Training adapted from Southern Arizona’s Center Against Sexual Assault (SACASA). This is an essential component to provide the information, tools and skills needed to be effective and compassionate advocates to survivors of sexual violence.

Study Guide Curriculum

Everyone who attends a performance receives a copy of our educational curriculum. This curriculum is designed to give teachers, counselors and other school staff members a platform to initiate a discussion about the impact of sexual violence and provide resources.



Sample Articles

'Meet Beth Braun' Nov 7, 2019 *Voyage Phoenix* <https://bit.ly/3bEoSWS>

'Esperanza Dance Project Delivers Hope' Nov 15, 2017 *Tucson.com* <https://bit.ly/2Z8O5Gm>

'What Does Esperanza Mean to You?' February 15, 2015 *UHS Daily Perspective* <https://bit.ly/2TbG281>

Awards and Recognition

Best Dance/Physical Theatre Show, Tucson Fringe Festival 2020

Awarded General Operating Grant, FY 2020 Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona

Awarded the Spring 2019 Unidas Grant. Unidas, Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona

Social Ventures Partners Fast Pitch Tucson, 2016 Semi Finalist

Quotes

"The choreography is brilliant. The student narration was a great idea and the music was most appropriate. Your audience really related to the piece... The study guides provided valuable information."

-Joan Ashcraft, Ph.D., Tucson Unified School District Director of Fine and Performing Arts/Opening Minds through the Arts

"The esperanza experience is profound for all students: performers and audiences alike. All increase their level of compassion for and their ability to support the empowerment of survivors and come away with tools for helping victims own the fact that it was not their fault."

-Kirsten Cook, MA, LPC, retired counselor, University High School

"The Esperanza Dance Project brings honesty, human connection and a sense of purpose to high school students at a time when they need it the most. My experience with esperanza was transformative – but i am just one of many who have been touched, stretched and moved by the esperanza dance project."

-Allyson yoder, alumna

Obtaining Photographs

For individual high-resolution photographs, please email esperanzadanceproject@gmail.com.
Otherwise photographs can be obtained through our website, www.esperanzadanceproject.org.
All photographs must be credited. ©Larry Hanelin





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F A Q's

What is sexual assault?

Anyone can be a victim of "sexual violence," including children, teenagers, people who are mentally and physically disabled, the elderly, women and men, regardless of race, sexual orientation or economic status. Sexual assault is a violent crime, not a sexual one.

"Sexual violence," which may be used as an umbrella term that encompasses sexual assault, can include several kinds of crimes. Survivors of sexual violence are forced, coerced and/or manipulated to participate in unwanted sexual activity. Survivors do not cause their assaults and are not to blame. Perpetrators are fully responsible for their actions. Perpetrators may be strangers, but more often are known to the survivor.

Is everyone in the project a survivor?

No. It is not a requirement to share one's own personal experiences with sexual violence while being a part of the project.

How do I get Esperanza to perform at my school/event?

Contact us! Send an email to esperanzadanceproject@gmail.com to book a performance. Esperanza hopes to inspire and collaborate with as many organizations and local events as possible.

Who created the choreography?

Beth Braun, Founder and Artistic Director of Esperanza Dance Project created the majority of all choreography presented in "House of Hope". The dancers are responsible for creating their own solos/duets/trios/quartets portions which come up throughout the performance.

How much does it cost to have Esperanza Perform?

Esperanza strives to provide all performances free of charge to young adults and students. Accessibility is a fundamental aspect of the Project. Costs to cover travel expenses are expected. Contact us directly to get more details.

How can I get involved?

As a majority volunteer-run organization, we are always in search of assistance and volunteers who have the time and desire to work with us. A great way to support our mission is to share our message on social platforms! Like, follow, share, and regram our social posts to continue the expansion of our network. Consider a donation deductible to the full extent of the law to this non-profit organization, and most importantly, spread a message of hope in your own life.

Logo Use

A complete style guide is available to download through our website. Please use the Esperanza logo without manipulating colors. Additional high resolution files are available by request. Please feel free to use any of the following infographic statistics. Sources are cited in the graphic.



Depending on the context of the abuse, family and friends feel shock, anger, sadness, anxiety and fear.
(U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006)



By age 21, 80% of individuals who suffered abuse qualify for a psychological diagnosis.
(U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006)



Sexual violence results in secondary victims, such as siblings and non-offending parent/s.
(U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006)



Depending on the context of the abuse, family and friends feel shock, anger, sadness, anxiety and fear.
(U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006)



93% of childhood sexual abuse victims know their abuser.
(U.S. Department of Justice, 2005 National Crime Victimization Survey)



By age 21, 80% of individuals who suffered abuse qualify for a psychological diagnosis.
(U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006)



Esperanza Dance Project is supported in part by the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona.

