

LACASA serves community and helps protect those in need

Ashleigh Beauchamp
Copy Editor

Located in Howell, Michigan is a safe haven for victims of sexual assault, domestic abuse, and child abuse. LACASA is a non-profit organization that helps hundreds of families and people every year and will always be around to help and heal people from traumas they can't handle on their own.

Foundations, fundraisers, and government grants are what keep this organization running, and make the help available to anyone who needs it at no cost.

There are 27 different programs altogether; aside from those programs there is also a 24-hour help line which can be reached at (866)-522-2725, and emergency shelter, counselling, support groups, legal advocacy, parenting classes, and prevention and education programming and local policy development to address interpersonal violence.

LACASA is an entirely private and confidential service that is in the community of Livingston county

to reach out to teenagers and their friends if they need it.

It all started when a small group of citizens in the Howell area about 30 years ago noticed people who were in situations they could not escape without someone there to lend a helping hand. The first official shelter for LACASA opened in 1983 and has now grown to be so big they had to acquire their own special facility that is custom-designed to meet the requirements they thought were necessary to the victims they serve.

LACASA visited Brighton High School on March 24th in plight of them launching a new campaign, called "The No Means..." campaign, which raises awareness to issues tied into sexual assault.

"The "No Means..." campaign incorporates the message: "No excuses. No blurred lines." and directly challenges sentiments expressed in the popular song Blurred Lines by Robin Thicke. Critics have labeled the song's lyrics "pro-rape" and "blatantly disrespectful of women." LACASA community education director Nicole Matthews-Creech said.

This campaign is run by the Teen

Advisory Council and the main idea is to make sure students are starting to understand the dangerous misconceptions people get from the media about rape and sexual assault and also to have the community aware of LACASA's existence.

There are many other participating schools in this campaign besides Brighton High School, including Flex Tech High School, Fowlerville High School, Hartland High School, Howell High School, Howell Freshman Campus, Kensington Woods High School, LEGACY, and lastly Pinckney High School.

"It is important that young people feel supported in their choices. When it comes to unwanted advances, there are no blurred lines. No means no," member of the Teen Advisory Council Kayla Dillon said.

The materials used in the campaign were posters, fact sheets, informational brochures, and a variety of multimedia programs, the main slogan being "No Excuses. No blurred lines." The posters were designed by Rachel Walker, wanting to capture students attention by exerting a powerful message.



Carlos Gonzalez

Spain's exchange student adjusts to life in new country

Thomas Wright
Staff Reporter

For most people, back-to-school means new school supplies, harder classes, seeing old friends, more homework and reuniting with friends after summer break. Not only did Carlos Gonzalez go through all the typical back-to-school clichés, but he also had to adjust to a new school with all new people, a new family and life in a foreign country.

Carlos knew he was going on a foreign exchange program to the U.S. but as time drew closer he still was unaware of where he would be going.

"I got an email from my host family telling that I was coming to Michigan in eleven days. All I knew was the name of the town and that my house had a pool," Gonzalez said.

Despite the short notice, on September 1st he boarded the plane in Coruna to Madrid, to New York City where he connected to Detroit. His host family was welcoming, and offered a great first impression to the United States.

"The first month was difficult. But it's all about finding people you like to be with and making friends. At first I felt a little alone," Gonzalez said.

Carlos found it easy to meet people and make friends by joining sports teams. In the past he has done boxing and he is currently in Track and

Field. His real sport though is kayaking.

"I miss kayaking a lot. My parents wanted me to go to the U.S. to improve my English, but that would mean giving up all the progress I was making in kayaking," Gonzalez said.

Even though he had to leave many things behind and was reluctant to leave, he's glad that he made the decision to come to the United States now.

"I miss my friends and the weather. Winter here is a lot colder," Gonzalez said.

Carlos is used to the heat from Spain and was caught off guard by the brutal cold of last winter. His great experiences have by far outnumbered the negative ones, making the cold tolerable.

"Brighton High School is really cool. I've met a lot of great people both from America and through my Exchange program that I will miss when I go home," Gonzales said.

Carlos does plan on returning to the U.S. to visit his host family and friends, and he hopes to meet up with some of his other European friends that are exchange students at BHS. His family is the only family in Brighton to house another exchange student, Jinjuta Vittayapreechakul from Thailand.

Carlos leaves on June 17th to go back to his home in Spain

"I can't believe how's fast it's gone by," Gonzalez said.

Some classes teach more than just math, english and science

Randi Gardner
Staff Reporter

Brighton High School offers many classes that help students choose a future career. They can also help train students in special skills that they may find useful later in their lifetime.

Two of the classes offered here are Auto Maintenance or Auto Technology taught by Rocky Roberts. In the maintenance class students learn the easy basics of a car and learn safety. This is a semester long class. Auto Technology is a year long two hour block class. In Auto Tech students first go through safety training and learn the proper use for the tools in the auto shop. Then students are given packets with instruction on how to do lab work on actual cars in the class. Roberts does give demonstrations on how to do these labs and students are given laptops to research any extra

information needed to perform the tasks.

"I really enjoy this class. I am going into an automotive career and this class has helped me get ready for it," junior Kyle Kincaid said.

Health Occupation is also a class that can help students get ready for a future career. This is a year long two hour block class taught by Jennifer Dagg. In this class you learn how to handle patients, their personal information, and proper safety techniques. Students will be educated on the anatomy of the human body as well as its defensive system to diseases. Many students' favorite part of taking Health Occupations is the weekly clinical visits. On Thursdays or Fridays students get to leave school during the class and shadow a person from different medical professions. Students will do this once a week for about 8 weeks.

"Taking this class helped me finalize my decision to go into the medical field after graduation," senior

Matt Morland said.

Two classes that can give life skills for the future are Bakeshop, currently taught by Arnella Park and Culinary Arts taught by Kelsey Quackenbush.

These classes can help students learn to cook and be able to provide for themselves better when they are no longer living with their parents. In Bakeshop students learn how to use the kitchen appliances and learn to cook some great baked goods like pies, cookies, and cakes. In Culinary Arts students also learn how to use kitchen appliances. Students will be taught how to store different foods as well as cooking preparations for certain meats. Most cooking will be done on the stove top instead of in the oven and students will be making dinner items instead of desserts.

"Both classes teach all skills that are necessary to be successful in life, like learning how to work with others, time management, good manners, and the art of small talk," Park said.

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Don't you think the school should have a Voice?