NEW YORK CITY’S ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES

The Hance Family Foundation has a long-standing partnership with various Administration for Children’s Services Child Welfare programs (including the Close to Home programs, the Office of Juvenile Justice programs and the Nicholas Scoppetta Children’s Center.)

The Scoppetta Children’s Center is the temporary residence for children entering ACS’s care until a permanent placement is found. Many children find themselves living at the center for weeks. The Hance Family Foundation’s Beautiful Me Program is presented “monthly at the center.

Kate Tuffy, creator of Beautiful Me, shares, “These girls are some of society’s most vulnerable citizens. Each group seems to start the same way—with approximately 10 girls who appear guarded, exhausted, hungry and much older than their chronological age. Within 15 minutes, the girls start to transform right before my eyes. I have watched with heartbreak, as young girls, cry for their moms but also share what they value most in themselves. I have been privileged to hug 13 & 14 year olds who state for the first time that they can regard their bodies with budding appreciation, while also sharing that they have struggled because of the way others have mistreated them. We lead every participant to generate rules for their bodies and health that they can enforce, regardless of how they are received by others. The girls often walk us to the elevator after the group and ride to the lobby with us, all the while asking when we will be back and if we will teach Beautiful Me at their schools. These girls share deep thoughts and heart-breaking experiences that no child should endure. We work rapidly to acknowledge their truth and re-frame future thoughts as well as self-talk.”

The Hance Family Foundation’s expert team has been trained to work specifically with the at-risk youth cared for by the team at ACS. Additionally, the foundation has built indelible relationships with the ACS administrators; we proudly answer every request made for their youth.
NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Hance Family Foundation has long standing relationships with the NYPD’s Community Affairs division and the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. Both powerful organizations have presented our programs to youth and adults living in some of our city’s most challenging scenarios.

The Hance Family Foundation leadership recently met with three-star Chief Hoffmann of Community Affairs to discuss elaborate collaborations throughout all 5 boroughs this summer and school year. Chief Hofmann agrees with us—we know that training NYC Department of Education’s School Safety Officers in our Beautiful Me curriculum will effectively change the culture in each building. We are setting those plans in motion immediately. Chief Hofmann invited our foundation to present Raising a Beautiful Child to NYPD officers, to parents in community settings and to grandparents who are often raising their grandchildren in impoverished neighborhoods. Chief Hoffmann asked that we teach Beautiful Me in the NYPD summer programs aimed at keeping youth off the streets and that we host our Empower Me seminar for female officers at One Police Plaza. Our reach and effectiveness with the NYPD is limitless.

MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY CY VANCE, JR
The Comprehensive Adolescent Rehabilitation and Education Service (CARES) at Mount Sinai/St. Luke’s has been treating high school aged students with substance abuse and/or mental health issues for over 28 years. The Hance Family Foundation is exceptionally proud to partner with Dr. Shilpa R. Taufique’s team as we implement the full suite of Self-Esteem Rising programs. We have taught our Beautiful Me program at Mount Sinai and are in planning stages for a fall 2019 Raising a Beautiful Child workshop as well as an Empower Me seminar for female physicians and staff at the hospital. The CARES team agrees with us—self-care for the caretakers is critical.

The Hance Family Foundation’s Beautiful Me Leader, Shanthy Hughes, MSW, taught an impactful Beautiful Me seminar with the female students at CARES. Shanthy shares, “Earlier this spring I was fortunate to bring Beautiful Me to young clients of an out patient psychiatric program. The young women that were participating in Beautiful Me in the Mount Sinai CARES program exemplified why self-esteem is so important for women of all ages.

Unfortunately, these teenagers had already experienced some sort of trauma in their lives. They had been victims of either sexual assault, physical and psychological abuse and extreme bullying. Self-esteem was so evidently lacking in their lives. Many of them had been hospitalized for suicidal ideations or attempts. Many had countless visible self-mutilation scars on their bodies. Over the course of the three sections, these young women at times were able to open up and share how they viewed themselves. Building one’s self-esteem is an ongoing process. Beauty and how we define it can be complicated. Acceptance and knowing who you are as an individual is always at the forefront of the Beautiful Me curriculum. During these classes, a seed of compassion towards one’s self was planted. I left Mount Sinai grateful to be part of the process.”
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, CA

The Hance Family Foundation began its West Coast expansion in a thrilling partnership with the University of Southern California! The foundation received a request from the Helenes organization, USC’s “official hostesses. (“It is the mission of the USC Helenes to support the University community. As the 'official hostesses of USC,' we will strengthen the Trojan Family through acts of volunteerism, hospitality and service. United in sisterhood, the women of Helenes will honor tradition, rise to contemporary challenges and strive to build a vibrant future for our organization and for our University.”) Warren and Jackie Hance had also met Stephanie Argyos, a member of USC’s Board of Directors, when they delivered the key note address on Sir Richard Branson’s Necker Island in 2015. Stephanie helped facilitate the USC event.

Warren is incredibly proud of the USC—Beautiful Me launch. He shares, “Seeing my daughters’ photos and our program materials all over the impressive USC campus reaffirmed my belief that our programs are needed everywhere and are effective all over the world.” The Hance Family Foundation team presented Beautiful Me seminars to USC students and girls from the local USC magnet middle school; these teen girls were identified as at-risk due to living in foster care, poverty and high crime communities.

The Beautiful Me workshops were multi-faceted. One would assume the USC students would emerge as the mentors in the group, but it was the resilience and optimism of the middle schoolers that took over the room. All participants dove deep into self-exploration and acceptance. Participants cried, cheered one another on, became riveted by the intimate stories shared and bonded over the ties that connect us all as growing human beings. “Our foundation works to serve others. I am always blown away by the responses of the Beautiful Me participants after the groups. The USC group shared with me that they felt so much stronger, had more hope for their futures, and that they never knew this type of education was possible”, Warren shared. “That means a great deal to me and everyone on our Board.”
St. Francis Prep is the nation’s largest co-ed Catholic High School (and proud alma mater of Kate Tuffy, creator of all Self-Esteem Rising programs!) The Principal and President of St. Francis Prep crafted an extraordinary partnership with our foundation 5 years ago. They set aside one school day in October each year for Beautiful Me; every freshman female student participates in a 3-hour Beautiful Me workshop. The female students later reflect on their new education and determine ways to live out our foundation’s mission in the SFP hallways and classrooms.

Each October, the day begins at St. Francis Prep with the entire freshman class (boys and girls) learning directly from Warren Hance. Warren speaks to these teens and faculty about his journey. He shares the complicated role that faith continues to play in his life after losing his daughters. Warren stresses the saving grace he has found from volunteering—how placing his time and talent at the service of others has reduced his loneliness and has allowed him to focus on the good in the world. He encourages the hundreds of students to ask for help when they need it, to be accountable to others and to forge ahead when things feel darkest.

Every female student at SFP now knows the value of self-esteem; and the importance of changing self-talk when it becomes negative. They know how to accept compliments and how important it is to recognize the good in others. They challenge societal norms regarding so-called beauty portrayed in media and they re-define the word ‘beautiful’ with accuracy.
Why have you selected Beautiful Me for your students?
The original reason came as a result to some behaviors and the realization that self-esteem and self-image issues needed to be addressed. We feel Beautiful Me is the best way to start a high school experience and being proactive for our young girls.

What population/ages/grades have you targeted and why?
We started with our Senior girls prior to the end of the school year. We now implement Beautiful Me at the very beginning of the school year for all incoming Freshmen.

Why do you feel that Beautiful Me is crucial for your female population?
We feel that today's girls are socialized and in a negative way. They are faced with growing up in a fast pace world, careers, and motherhood. Girls naturally want to be perfect. This program teaches our student population that everyone has talent, is beautiful and unique in their own way.

Did the participants appear engaged and interested in the Beautiful Me curriculum?
All the small groups seem to take on their own personality. We spoke to many of the girls that have participated and have commented that they became close to those in their group and formed friendships. Being incoming Freshmen, they learned to engage with new faces. Many of the girls spoke how they really embraced the message of being beautiful inside and out which made them confident. They also loved the activities and takeaways.

How has the Beautiful Me lessons resulted in change in the majority of the participants?
We do plan to implement a follow-up with the participants as well as self-reports. Also, some of our Junior and Senior girls have asked if they were able to become a Beautiful Me facilitator going forward.
IS 5, ELMHURST, QUEENS, NY

Letter received 6/23/19 from Kelly Nepogoda, Principal

Words cannot express my gratitude for the Beautiful Me program, nor can they communicate fully how your work has served to encourage, empower and unify our girls. This school year, we had a record number of young ladies experience the program. We had the honor of supporting them and witnessing their rising self-esteem and increased voice in our school community. We cannot wait to see what lies in wait for our girls as the circle of Beautiful Me influence grows, and to make concrete our new goals for implementation and success!

A very special shout-out to Kate and Racquel! You both believed in us from the moment you met our small group of staff in 2014 in our school library with Warren to tell his story. We were moved by his story and by your mission. As we worked as a large middle school community to find our way with Beautiful Me, you never forgot us, grew doubtful of us or left us behind. You were always side by side with us, and this year, catapulted us to success. Thank you both for the visits, the late evening texts, the training, the presentations and simply for being amazing. Please know you are loved and deeply cherished. I look forward to a future where we can give back to those who have given so much.

PRESENTED BY THE HANCE FAMILY FOUNDATION
CAMP NO LIMITS, NATIONWIDE

It was our great privilege to recently partner with Camp No Limits. This organization is designed for children with limb loss and differences. The camp aims to provide education, mentorship, and support to these children and their families. On a crisp spring weekend, our Self-Esteem Rising team accepted an invitation to their mother-daughter camp in Connecticut.

The spectacular girls at Camp No Limits taught us a valuable lesson....how to celebrate beauty in a unique and positive way. While our goal was to build their confidence, our Beautiful Me program enhanced their innate ability to see themselves as beautiful beyond their physical capabilities.

A weekend retreat brought together both mothers and daughters and provided a special opportunity of emotional healing, bonding, and growth. During the Beautiful Me activities, personal and real struggles were shared by all participants in a profound manner that allowed for a greater sense of support and community.

The Hance Family Foundation’s Beautiful Me and Raising a Beautiful Child programs will now be implemented in all Camp No Limits locations by their turn-key facilitators.

PRESENTED BY THE HANCE FAMILY FOUNDATION
THE FATHER’S HEART MINISTRIES, SOUTH AFRICA

When I first encountered the Beautiful Me program, I immediately recognized the value it would add to our work in South Africa, where women are abandoned, exploited and suffering.

The first Beautiful Me program we conducted in Africa was with over 40 women, the majority who were sex workers, and infected with HIV. The program offers so much flexibility we were able to easily adapt it to the unique needs of our audience. The women were inspired to find the unchangeable value in themselves and their bodies through the Hand Activity. Offering them the opportunity to also encourage and lift each other up through the sharing of meaningful compliments, reminded them that their voice and power is undiminished by their circumstances.

On our second trip we brought the program to Lesotho, a rural and impoverished African nation landlocked within South Africa. There through the Beautiful Me program, the women were given an opportunity to celebrate their womanhood, their motherhood, and their sisterhood within their small village communities. These women lead hard lives, and having that time to reflect, and reconnect with each other through their common experiences is powerful.

To accomplish that kind of empowerment in an hour’s time, with different groups of women, in different circumstances, is a testament to the effectiveness of the Beautiful Me program across cultures, race and life experience.

Jacqueline Martinez
The Father’s Heart Ministries
YOUNG ADULTS WITH SPECIAL ABILITIES, QUEENS NY

“I am beyond blown away by Beautiful Me and the growth the foundation has had in the past 10 years. It is without hesitation that I believe partnering with YASA will bring positive and empowering motivation to both the staff and ladies and gentlemen we support. Our Mission and Vision are similar. We are both driven to instill confidence in the people we teach. Through confidence, our population is given an opportunity to make choices for themselves and even overcome fears that they once thought they would always have. With Experience, Exposure and Education we can collectively work together in giving someone the motivation to advocate for themselves when they felt that they couldn't. Here at YASA, our Mission and Vision is to provide unique programming that is person centered and affords everyone the ability to be "heard" and make choices that blossom into opportunities that positively impact their lives. Without that confidence, where would they be? Perhaps just another person "labeled" with a disability. We see more, you see more. We have seen our own success with empowerment (since it resonates within our culture) specifically with one of the ladies at our program. At one time, she was shy and introverted - we worked on her confidence, we motivated her, we worked closely on what was meaningful to her. She is now able to train the other ladies and gentlemen we support on meaningful program topics of her choosing. I look forward to our ongoing partnership and truly believe our paths were meant to cross.”

Cara Smith
Associate Executive Director

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