



Chloe Furnstahl
VICTIM to *victims*

Local Teen Comes Forward to say, “No More.”

A Personal Story of Survival

From the Joyful Heart Website

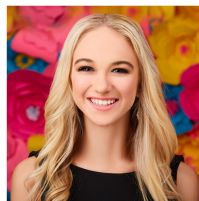
April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), but it is critical to work towards prevention on a local and national level every day of the year.

The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. This year, SAAM is celebrating its 19th anniversary. One of SAAM’s themes has been “**Embrace Your Voice**” to help individuals, communities and the private sector understand how they can take action to promote safety, respect and equality to stop sexual assault before it happens. A local teen comes forward to share her story and lend her voice to this movement.

Once living in silence, Chloe Furnstahl now hopes to put a face with the crime of sexual assault and shed light on the topic of recovery and prevention. Chloe Furnstahl supports the Joyful Heart Foundation founded by the star of Law and Order SVU, Mariska Hargitay to say, “No More” to sexual assault and domestic violence. Chloe, a 16 year old high school student. Chloe is speaking publicly about her experiences to make a difference for other victims.

For years Chloe and her family remained silent. They put all their effort toward seeing her case through the court system. After two years of delays by the defendant and his legal team, the prosecutor offered a plea agreement. To secure the plea deal, the defendant was required to submit to a psychosexual evaluation. The evaluator said the defendant was no longer a threat and remanded him to treatment. Based on this evaluation, suggesting the defendant was a first time offender, he was given supervised probation. Chloe and her family were left with many unanswered questions and a feeling that the perpetrator’s rights were more important than the victim’s. To unseal documents and gain the truth about the defendant, Chloe and her family embarked on a lengthy and costly odyssey by continuing the case through a civil lawsuit. During the course of the civil proceedings it was learned the doctor hired by the defendant to conduct the psychosexual evaluation had lied in similar cases and had lost his license. After a review of sealed information from the criminal proceeding, it was clear what was stated about the defendant to obtain the plea agreement was not true. He was not a first time offender; he was a threat and should have received a greater penalty than probation and treatment.

A jury in the civil case found the defendant, his wife, and their business guilty of assault, battery, negligence, false light (slander, and related crimes. The verdict came far too late. The criminal and civil legal process took five years. Throughout the legal proceedings, Chloe and her family did not speak about the case. The defendant did; taking every opportunity to ruin Chloe’s reputation through verbal and written means. She was 8 years old when she reported a year of abuse. It would take her the next five years to unravel the lies said about her. The process of regaining her reputation continues today.



Chloe Furnstahl

VICTIM to *victorions*

Chloe is an outstanding student and takes an active role in leadership at her school. She is a nationally recognized free throw shooter, an accomplished basketball player, an award winning competitive dancer and a reporter for Teen Kids News. Chloe credits an incredibly supportive family for helping her shoulder the burden of traumatic events.

Chloe is a sought after public speaker. She is versatile and is able to speak to diverse groups from students to lawmakers. Her upbeat style and youth perspective allows audience to learn and be inspired. For young students, Chloe provides assemblies, clinics and camps focused on basketball skills titled: Playing it Safe. The focus of her assemblies, clinics, and camps are topics related to: fitness, sportsmanship, and safety.

Call to Action

1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted by the time they are 18. The ramifications from this trauma are devastating and can lead to issues in adulthood including the likelihood of further victimization. The public must respond to these staggering statistics and the cost to society when children and adults suffer.

Chloe is a great spokesperson; her story is genuine and heartfelt. Chloe is able to share incidence data, resources for recovery and information about prevention. Her message: Sexual assault is preventable and there is hope for recovery. As the Joyful Heart Foundation suggests, we need to change the culture to stop the crime. Chloe Furnstahl stands firm, "It starts with me, but I need everyone's help. Stop Sexual assault, say, No more!"

Contact Information:

Chloe Furnstahl c/o Shari Furnstahl

PO Box 1628 Sumner WA 98390

(425)488-7672 CELL

(253)840-2030 FAX

arcpress@comcast.net email

Chloe Furnstahl—Facebook

www.chloefurnstahl.com