1 in 3 adolescents is a victim of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse from a dating partner; only 30% of these teens ever tell anyone else about the abuse. Dating violence during adolescence can have major long-term consequences, including increased risk of substance abuse, higher prevalence of eating disorders, anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation, and a greater likelihood of being in an abusive relationship as an adult.

February is national Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. We are so glad our friends at Westfield High School chose to celebrate with us this year and raise awareness of this critical issue. Assistant Principal Alicia Denniston was instrumental in bringing TDVAM activities to WHS this February, and that’s why she’s our Hero of the Month!

Alicia recognized the importance of educating teens about healthy relationships and committed to hosting a wide variety of activities for students. She organized students and staff to come together at an “Orange Out” basketball game and planned a Parent Awareness Night to help parents learn more about preventing teen dating violence.

We are so grateful to Alicia for helping us bring our message to WHS!

Thank you for Alicia! You are our Hero!