



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## Student Walk Home Attendant Team (SWHAT)

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TO: Members of the Executive Board  
FROM: James Dowdall  
SUBJECT: Student Walk Home Attendant Team (SWHAT) Report 4  
DATE: March 15<sup>th</sup> 2013

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### **UPDATE**

SWHAT has been doing well since my last report. We have worked hard to prepare for our Walk-A-Thon that started this month while striving to overcome our volunteer shortage problem. We have also solved one of our biggest challenges from my last report, Rail Trail Posters.

### **SERVICE USAGE**

SWHAT has been working hard to remain open as long as possible. SWHAT was open the entirety of February with the exception of reading week. There was a distinct lack of volunteers and we were unable to remain open. In February we had a total of 50 walks, this is our lowest point this year and I attribute this to the shorter month and the fact that we are not open during reading week. Since the start of March SWHAT has had over 50 walks, we are predicting over 100 walks this month which will be a new record for us.

### **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

The biggest moment for SWHAT in the last month was the hiring of the new coordinator. This was a difficult process as we had three excellent candidates who brought a lot of experience and ideas to the table. I'm happy to congratulate Jennifer Duff on her new position as coordinator. I have been working on my transition with Jennifer and we are currently in the process of hiring next years executive team. I'm also working on my transition report, it is a rather extensive document but I hope it will be enough to guide her and future coordinators. In doing this SWHAT has been compiling its own "report" in which we will summarize our usage throughout the year in a comparative analysis of days and hours. We have found that our busiest day is Thursdays (averaged throughout the year) and our busiest hour is between 10:00pm and 11:00pm. That being said we have had a grand total of 38 walks occurring between the hours of 1:00am and 2:00am. This has shown us that there is a need for SWHAT at that time and we are working on a strategic plan for next year.

In my last report I outlined that our biggest challenge is our inability to open our rail trail snap frames. Since then a member of the executive and myself were able to open the snap frames. We have printed new posters and are looking to have them up on the rail trail by the end of next week. Make sure to keep an eye out for them.

Thanks to the Walk-A-Thon and Rail Trail Posters SWHAT has had the opportunity to update its old promotional material with new ones. If you happen to see

any old promotional material on campus please let me know so that I can remove them and replace them with the new posters.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

Our biggest event right now is our Walk-A-Thon, SWHAT is donationg 1\$ to the Sexual Assault Centre of Hamilton (SACHA) for every walk we have. We are currently at 52 walks so far. The Walk-A-Thon is going much better than expected and we are hoping to break 100 walks by the end of the month. We are also offering the volunteers an opportunity to contribute, instead of collecting SIP raffle tickets they can choose to donate those raffle tickets (1\$ per ticket).

### **BUDGET**

Here is a break down of the budget so far:

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Percentage Spent</b>
<b>Advertising and Promotions</b>	1700	72.2%
<b>Volunteer Recognition</b>	4000	51.8%
<b>Office Supplies</b>	200	60.3%
<b>Travel</b>	500	200%
<b>Volunteer Training</b>	250	99.1%

### **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Our biggest challenge at the moment is our volunteers. We have a small group of dedicated volunteers who have been completing the required number of shifts and then some. Unfortunatley we have had some volunteers who have not been signing up and others who have been expressing a very negative attitude towards SWHAT, our volunteers and walks. We have given these volunteers warnings and are issueing a SWHAT-Quiz. The Quiz is to help us make sure that all volunteers have a clear understanding of their roles and what is expected of them.

### **SUCCESES**

Our biggest success at the moment is our Walk-A-Thon. We have had several people call on a regular basis to request a walk, stating that they wanted to help fundraise and it was the Walk-A-Thon that got their attention. I have no doubt that as this event becomes a tradition at SWHAT it will garner more attention and become something that will encourage people to walk with SWHAT regardless of if they feel safe or not.

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