



"I became
a true
survivor."

-a college student who attended the
HOPE Conference

Her Story: "I attended the Keynote Speaker at the Hope Conference. I cannot express enough how moved I was by this speech. As a rape survivor myself, I felt an impenetrable connection between Marilyn and myself. I understood the material of which she spoke, and I understood the courage it takes her every single time she shares her story with someone new. While I have shared my experience with select friends, I've never owned up to that fact that **I am in fact a rape survivor**. I always felt that admitting to being raped, openly, would victimize me all over again. When she asked the survivors to stand, I did and felt something that I'd never done or felt before.

I stood. Sobbing. Shaking. And not alone. I looked out at everyone else who was standing in the audience and cried. Something this terrible was touched so many people. But it's a beautiful feeling to be reassured that I'm not alone. And that by standing and owning my past,

I became a true survivor."



A Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Prevention Event

- Over **400** Attended
- Over **\$41,000** in In-Kind Donations
- **34** Community Partners

The Alliance of Southwest Missouri www.theallianceofswmo.org