



Mission

The mission of Operation Keepsake, Inc. is to challenge young people to develop healthy relationships and strong character so that they may develop to their fullest potential in life.

History and Philosophy

Operation Keepsake, Inc. began in the spring of 1988, reaching 65 students in one school. Since that time, thousands of students have benefited from Operation Keepsake, Inc.'s positive approach to the issues of adolescent wellbeing. Operation Keepsake, Inc. provides educational programming to 25,000 students in over 170 schools, and youth organizations in the northeast region of Ohio on average each year. The programs encourage the students to become other-centered as opposed to self-centered and to acknowledge that their decisions not only affect their own lives, but the lives of those around them.

***For Keeps*[™] Relationship Education Curriculum**

For Keeps[™] relationship education curriculum is available for middle and high school students. The 5-session MS and 10-session HS programs are highly visual and interactive. The curricula provide students with the skills necessary to resist unhealthy pressures from their peers, the media, and the culture while enhancing their feelings of self-worth. The skills learned will benefit the students throughout their lives when confronted with health-risk behaviors that may prevent them from achieving their fullest potential.

***Love Doesn't Have a Dark Side*[™] Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Program**

Love Doesn't Have a Dark Side[™] dating violence prevention curriculum is available for middle and high school students. The 3-session programming addresses the attitudes and behaviors associated with dating abuse and violence, and provides teens with the information and tools they need to build healthy relationships. The program fulfills the requirements of The Tina Croucher Act (Ohio HB19).

***No Bullies Allowed* Bullying Prevention and Awareness Program**

No Bullies Allowed bullying prevention curriculum is available for middle and high school students. The 3-session curriculum encourages bullies to *Stop*, victims to *Speak Out*, and silent witnesses to *Stand Up*. The program builds a vital infrastructure of support, hope, and restoration between the individual, school, and community, and may fulfill your school district's educational requirement for Ohio's Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, or Anti-Bullying Statute (Ohio Revised Code 3313.666).

***I Am the Parent*[™] Parent Education Presentation**

I Am the Parent[™] presentation is a specifically designed to encourage parents to communicate their values and expectations regarding healthy living with their children. Operation Keepsake, Inc. concurs with the compelling data that demonstrates when parents are involved in communicating with their children; the children are less likely to become involved in unhealthy behavior during their adolescent years. This educational presentation is designed to affirm the role of parents and give them the specific tools to reach their children. The presentation although developed for parental enrichment is also ideal for school and community organizations.

***represent*[®] Teen Magazine**

represent[®] teen magazine is Operation Keepsake, Inc.'s cutting edge publication for high school students. The magazine is offered three times each school year: fall, winter, and spring. The publication features teens that are standing up and speaking out for their generation. To keep the magazine relevant and culturally sensitive youth are asked to participate in the selection of the topics included in each issue. The magazine touches on pertinent teen issues, but emphasizes relationship, communication, and assertiveness skills to help them build healthy relationships. In addition, frequently asked questions during classroom presentations are highlighted and answered in the column "Ask Brock, Ask Jen."

***YOURFUTURE—ONTHELINE*[™] Middle School Magazine**

YOURFUTURE—ONTHELINE[™] is Operation Keepsake's, Inc.'s new publication for middle school students. The magazine is offered two times each school year: fall and spring. The publication features pertinent issues facing today's middle school students. It also serves as a teacher/parent discussion guide. The magazine focuses on the development of healthy relationships, while reinforcing positive youth development through an emphasis on self-expression and esteem. In addition, the magazine highlights the lives and accomplishments of local youth.

***Directions*[™] Parent E-newsletter**

Operation Keepsake, Inc.'s *Directions*[™] parent e-newsletter is targeted to the adult community with specific concern for parents, guardians, and school personnel. Topics correspond with those covered in *represent*[®] and *YOURFUTURE—ONTHELINE*[™] magazines.

Evaluation

Operation Keepsake, Inc.'s *For Keeps* curriculum underwent an independent evaluation by the Center for Health Promotion at Case Western Reserve University with Elaine Borawski, Ph. D. The evaluation was published in the *American Journal of Health Behavior* in September 2005. It was one of the first empirical studies published on abstinence until marriage programs. The objective of the study was to examine the effectiveness of abstinence until marriage curriculum on knowledge, beliefs, efficacy, intentions, and behavior. The study was a nonrandomized control trial involving 2,069 middle school students with a 5-month follow-up in 2 suburban and 5 urban schools in Cleveland, Ohio. 73% of the students were African American, 19% White, and 8% other. The results included an increase for all students—both sexually experienced and inexperienced—in abstinence beliefs, knowledge of HIV/AIDS and other STDs with decreased intentions to have sex in the future—next three months and in the next year. The sexually experienced students who had sex during the intervention reported fewer sexual episodes and fewer partners.