

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
***Highland Park High School Names Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center  
2017 Charity Drive Beneficiary***

**GURNEE (January 10, 2017)**

Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center, a rape crisis center serving northeastern Illinois, was chosen to be the Highland Park High School's 2017 Charity Drive recipient.

For 34 years, ZCenter has been helping survivors take back their lives and mobilizing the community to end sexual violence. By choosing ZCenter as the beneficiary of the annual Charity Drive, Highland Park High School makes a bold statement of support for ZCenter's mission to end sexual violence.

With 42% of ZCenter clients under the age of 18, and serving over 30,000 individuals annually through counseling, advocacy and prevention services, the students' vote for ZCenter is a strong vote to support their peers and community.

In the past 20 years, HPHS has granted several million dollars to various local charities to benefit the community. Charity Drive student leader, Mia Harris, says, "I am thrilled to have ZCenter as the selected charity this February. ZCenter provides great support to their clients, but they also do an amazing job educating the community about sexual abuse. I voted for ZCenter because I find this issue extremely important, especially for people my age. Sexual abuse is not an easy conversation to have, but HPHS students have decided to recognize the importance of sexual abuse and take a whole month to spread awareness, but also educate themselves; it is truly remarkable."

The funds by the HPHS Charity drive will provide counseling and advocacy for sexual assault survivors and prevention education to further ZCenter's mission to end sexual violence.

"ZCenter is genuinely honored to be selected as the beneficiary of the 2017 Highland Park High School Charity Drive. Creating awareness and providing education about sexual abuse is critical to ZCenter's mission. Having the support of HPHS students through the charity drive helps ZCenter provide a place where survivors of sexual assault and abuse can heal. We are enormously grateful for this partnership with HPHS," says Jennifer Yonan, Executive Director at ZCenter.

During the month of February, HPHS will host numerous events and fundraising opportunities where students, faculty, local businesses, and the community are encouraged to participate. Check [www.hphs.dis113.org](http://www.hphs.dis113.org) or [www.ZCenter.org](http://www.ZCenter.org) for the full Charity Drive Calendar beginning January 15th!

**About ZCenter:**

For more than 30 years, Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center (ZCenter) has served as a community of healing, addressing the widespread crime of sexual violence. ZCenter offers free counseling, support groups and advocacy services to survivors of sexual violence and non-offending loved ones, in a unique healing environment. Through educational programs and professional trainings, the organization also informs and mobilizes the community to take action against sexual violence, with an end goal of eliminating the crime. For more information about ZCenter, visit [www.ZCenter.org](http://www.ZCenter.org).

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