

ZION DISTRICT 6

# Zion Central dancers take part in 'One Billion Rising,' a global event

By GINNY SKWERES  
ZION-BENTON NEWS

Girls from Zion Central Middle School took part in V-Day, a global movement to end violence against women and girls.

They performed the group's official choreographed dance, Break the Chain, in the Round Lake Beach Civic and Cultural Center on Feb. 14. That is where the Lake County Rising event took place along with others in 203 countries, according to the 'One Billion Rising' group.

Some of the middle school girls were invited to take part in the dance. They met after school to practice and learn the dance, which was choreographed for the global event.

All of the girls who were invited to participate accepted the challenge and continued until the end. They were the only group at the Round Lake Beach event to perform the dance.

Zion Police Officer Jenna Madero came up with the idea and was helped by Jennifer McDonough, Mallory McElyea, Shree Spaulding, Tesha Tucker and Jennifer Young and Greg Baker who did the media editing and videotaping. Zion Township Supervisor

Cheri Neal, Janet Jones of the Bee's Knees and Kiera Pracht also lent their support.

Officer Madero said she also appreciates the support of Commissioner Lloyd DeTienne, Chief Wayne Brooks, Suptintendent John Ahlgrim, Zion Central administrators and parents.

The girls who practiced, gave up their time, and performed include Imani Bah, Miranda Berry, Kaily Branch, Aiyannah Burnett, Deysi Cuevas, Asia Fields, Autumn Ford, Illiana Garcia, Casandra Giles, Esmeralda Guerra, Ayannah Henderson, Dovie Jones, Vanessa Jones, Giselle Melchor, Jessicalynn Nelson, Cheyenne Nixon, Destiny Rivera, Renee Smith, Raquel Soto, Beyonce Walker, Haley Young (Beulah Park 3rd grade) and Alyssa Pracht (Z-BTHS freshman).

Their performance went so well, they were given a standing ovation by the crowd.

The number, one billion, refers to the statistic that one of three women will be raped



Zion Central girls rehearse the official dance of the international group that fights violence against women.

ZION-BENTON NEWS PHOTO BY GINNY SKWERES

or beaten in their lifetime. The movement calls for an end to violence and supports justice and gender equality.

An extreme example of the violence and gender inequality is the young girl shot by members of the Taliban in Pakistan because she wanted an education. But violence against women happens everywhere. Read the weekly Police Beat in this newspaper and look under

'Battery' for local examples.

According to V-Day Founder and award winning playwright Eve Ensler (The Vagina Monologues), "It will change the world because the preparation for it and organizing for it has already created an energetic wind or wave igniting existing efforts to end violence against women and create new ones."