Laura Littlejohn

Speech Assignment

The Azalea

Seven million women in America are suffering from an eating disorder at this very moment. Someone’s daughter, sister, friend, wife or mother is trying to overcome the illness. Eating disorders including anorexia, bulimia, binge eating, compulsive exercise and body dysmorphic disorder cause these seven million women pain every day. More people die from eating disorders than all other mental illnesses combined, but the Azalea wants to lower this statistic. The Azalea is a treatment facility in Houston that strives to help women of all ages overcome eating disorders and body image distortion disorders. The Azalea hopes to make a positive impact on individual women as well as society as a whole. Through affirmation, therapy and creating a path for a healthy lifestyle, our mission will be achieved. It is imperative that people seek treatment for eating disorders, but often those suffering do not get the treatment they need. Though eating disorders are common, only one in 10 women suffering from the illness receive treatment. Not only is it difficult for those who have an eating disorder to admit they have a problem, but treatment is expensive and hard to get insurance coverage for. That is why the Azalea raises money for its patients to receive treatment. Through donations and events, the Azalea’s goal of being able to fund treatment can be accomplished. The upcoming event hosted by the Azalea is the Radiance Fashion Show. The show, which includes hors d’oeuvres and entertainment, is hosted in the facility’s gardens. Clothing is donated from Houston designer Chloe Dao. Most impressively, the models are present or prior Azalea patients that choose to participate. The fashion show not only raises awareness and money for treatment, but it helps the participating patients gain confidence and feel beautiful in their own skin. Treatment like this will help women overcome eating disorders. As someone who has struggled with issues that the Azalea specializes in, I know how important it is to seek treatment for eating disorders and body image distortion disorders. I ask you from the bottom of my heart and from the patients’ hearts, to please join us in the fight against eating disorders. Through your donations and participation in our events and our philanthropy as a whole, you could save hundreds of lives.