



Freezing in South Norwalk CYL's annual event draws a crowd

We actually do a freeze a few times a year, but a big draw is always the one we lead at the SoNo Arts Festival.

So, on August 3 members of the Center for Youth Leadership casually strolled down Washington Street as if they didn't have a care in the world. Then they froze in place - some in poses - at the sound of a whistle. Each held a sign with a statistic about one of our issues - child abuse, dating violence, human

trafficking, the rights of immigrants and bullying. Unlike previous years, when we asked members not to respond if approached by someone, we told them this year they were free to talk. Who was approached most often? You guessed it - members holding signs about human trafficking.

As you may know, the F.B.I rescued 105 teens last week from human trafficking situations across the country. Of the people that

approached us at the festival, less than a handful knew that five of the girls were found in hotels in New Haven, Milford, West Hartford, Berlin and Norwich.

Signs about bullying and the link between animal cruelty and child abuse also generated a lot of attention.

Photo: Nadia Schriel (left) and Erika Brown break their freeze to talk about our work.