



Quarterly eNewsletter

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What's New

- **National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline Launched**
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National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline Launched

In response to the alarming rates of teen dating abuse through technology and the severe knowledge gap between parents and their teens, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) and Liz Claiborne Inc. joined together to launch loveisrespect.org, The National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline (NTDAH). This 24-hour national web-based and telephone resource was created to help teens (ages 13-18) experiencing dating abuse and is the only helpline in the country serving all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Although there are national hotlines for adults, teens have special needs and require specific expertise, information and communication mechanisms for overcoming dating violence. Cumulative research from the NDVH indicates that 10 percent of the 17,000 calls answered monthly at the Hotline are from teenagers and young adults.

The first of its kind, NTDAH will operate via telephone and Web 24 hours a day and will be staffed by both teen and adult advocates. Teens (and parents) anywhere in the country can call toll free, 866-331-9474 or log on to the interactive Web site, loveisrespect.org, and receive immediate, confidential assistance. The site will offer secure, live interactive chat to teens, which will

present them with a familiar technology and an accessible means for communication. While online or on the phone, teens will be given support as well as referrals to local resources in their hometown to provide them with the help they need.

- Hours of Operation: NTDAH will be staffed by trained volunteer and professional advocates **24 hours a day**. Teenage peer advocates will staff the helpline and Web site during a block of time each day.
- Web site: NTDAH offers a live, interactive Web site -- loveisrespect.org - to provide a safe, confidential online resource for teens to ask questions, share experiences or express their feelings. The site features live interactive, instant chat with advocates. There will also be message boards, blogs as well as other valuable information to help teens cope with and understand healthy dating behavior and relationships.
- Phone number: **866.331.9474**
(866-331-8453 for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing)
- Staffing: Trained peer volunteers between the ages of 16-24 will provide advocacy during the peak hours of noon-2:00 a.m. (4:00 p.m. to midnight from February-May 2007). Trained adult advocates will provide assistance to peer advocates as well as overflow assistance and staffing during off-peak hours.
- Training: All volunteers have received more than 40 hours of training from current NDVH supervisory staff, survivors of teen violence and other experts in the field. Additionally, advocates will receive ongoing advanced training for issues related to violence to further assist teens in dealing with relationships.
- Confidentiality: NTDAH will not collect or maintain data that will compromise confidentiality such as IP addresses or caller ID. NTDAH will make all efforts to ensure that information is anonymous and confidential including training of staff to assure that privacy is of utmost concern.

Break The Cycle Launches A "Safe Space" Web Site For Teens

Verizon Wireless, a recognized corporate leader in domestic violence awareness, recently donated \$50,000 through its HopeLine program to Break the Cycle for www.TheSafeSpace.org, a one-of-a-kind online community designed to connect, communicate and inform. The site will give teens nationwide access to the information and resources needed to understand and develop healthy relationships.

TheSafeSpace.org will offer a safe, confidential and interactive web-based environment for teens and those concerned about a young person's safety. TheSafeSpace.org will provide tools of prevention and intervention to help teens identify and build healthier relationships.

The donation is the result of Verizon Wireless' HopeLine Phone Collection Drives held at more than 2,000 Wal-Mart locations during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Throughout the month, wireless customers donated thousands of no-longer used wireless phones, all of which will be refurbished and reused, or recycled in an environmentally-sound way, by the HopeLine program.

Since the phone recycling and re-use part of the program became national in 2001, HopeLine has donated more than \$10 million in financial grants, phones and services, including the donation of more than 40,000 wireless phones to agencies for victims' use, and has collected more than 3.5 million wireless phones to raise funds for domestic violence victims and advocacy organizations.

New Competition to Showcase World's Most Innovative Domestic Violence Prevention Programs

Entry Deadline: March 28

An unprecedented competition to find innovative solutions to the domestic violence that plagues families and communities in the United States and around the world begins this week. The competition, "No Private Matter! Ending Abuse in Intimate and Family Relations" is sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and utilizes Changemakers' online, open source competition model. Dozens of violence prevention programs - based in the U.S. and countries around the world - are expected to propose novel approaches to help eliminate intimate partner and family violence.

The "No Private Matter!" competition, running through March 28, 2007 at www.changemakers.net, is designed not only to catalyze entrepreneurs to tackle this important issue but also to connect promising solutions with key decision makers, investors and health and social service providers. It also creates opportunities for peers to learn about and refine the strategies developed by their colleagues in order to advance the most promising strategies to end abuse.

A distinguished panel of judges will choose twelve finalists who are leading prevention programs that are innovative and effective, have significant social impact and are sustainable. All will be given myriad opportunities to showcase their programs. Three of the twelve will receive cash prizes of \$5,000. Entries are being accepted in the competition through **March 28, 2007** and winners will be announced by Changemakers on May 1, 2007.

For details on the competition, visit www.changemakers.net.

National Center for Victims of Crime's 2nd National Conference
Advancing Practice, Policy, and Research
Washington, DC.
June 18-20, 2007

This conference highlights progress and innovations that benefit crime victims' rights and services. The conference features more than 130 leading experts and 80 skill-building workshops and provides information and tools to better serve victims of all crimes. It will also offer a chance to network and share knowledge with colleagues and experts in victim services and related fields from across the country.

This year we have a conference track focusing on Violence Against Women. Workshops included in this track are "Protecting the Stalking Victim," "Protective Orders and Violence Against Women," "Exploring Poverty and Sexual Violence" and many more!

You can download a full conference brochure and review the conference agenda, workshops, hotel, and plenary sessions by visiting http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=DB_2005NationalConference571

Register by April 1 and save \$50!

National Center for Victims of Crime
2000 M Street NW, Suite 480
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www.ncvc.org

San Diego International Family Justice Center Conference April 10-12 2007

Gael Strack, Director of the San Diego Family Justice Center, cordially invites you to join us for our 7th Annual San Diego International Family Justice Center Conference on April 10-12, 2007 at the Westin Horton Plaza in downtown San Diego. If you or a colleague would be interested in attending, please go to our website at www.familyjusticecenter.org for brochure, registration information etc.

We at the San Diego Family Justice Center are so excited about this year's conference. We will have local, state, national and international speakers and attendees. Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders, will bring the Opening Welcome. Last year we had over 500 attendees so, if you missed last year's conference....you won't want to miss this year!

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