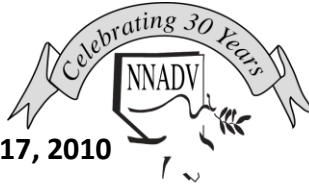


PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 17, 2010

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Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month What your community can do to end abuse among teens

Nevada—Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (NNADV) recognizes February as the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. This month aims to bring attention to pervasive teen dating violence and what communities can do to end it.

"Teen dating violence is a devastating reality in our schools and communities," said Sue Meuschke, NNADV's Director. "We need to support our young people in rejecting violence and adopting mutual respect in all their relationships."

Females between the ages of 16 and 24 are more likely to be victim of intimate partner violence than any other age group, experiencing abuse almost three times more than the national average. Two-thirds of teenaged victims do not report the abuse to anyone. The effects of abuse can be long-lasting. Abusive teens are likely to continue violent and coercive behavior in future relationships.

Since technology is an integral part of teens' lives, many cases of teen dating violence involve social networking sites, cell phones and other technologies. "Parents shouldn't threaten to take away cell phones and other technology from teens because that will discourage them from telling their parents about abuse perpetrated against them," said Judy Henderson, NNADV's Education & Outreach Manager. "It is important that parents talk with their teens about appropriate uses of technology and mutual respect for anyone they date."

The Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month reminds us about modeling for teenagers what healthy relationships look like and letting them know what services are available to them if they are dating someone who is controlling, coercive and abusive.

Examples of activities this month:

S.A.F.E. House in Henderson is conducting their new volunteer training during the month of February, including a special session about teen dating violence. Also this month, S.A.F.E. House's Teen Dating Violence Council/Teens Against Abuse is producing T-shirts that represent

the group in order to actively recruit new members. For more information, please contact Samantha Willey, S.A.F.E. House Community Outreach Educator at (702.451.4203 ext. 22, or Samanthaw@safehousenv.org)

The Winnemucca Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc. (WDVS) was presented a formal proclamation from both the city and the county officials declaring February Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. On February 20th, WDVS will sponsor an interactive information booth at the local Youth Fair where WDVS advocates will be distributing teen-specific information packets, Teen Bill of Rights, and sweetheart candies with cards that display helpline services. Local youth can participate in relationship quizzes and take a Pledge for Teens Against Violence. For more information, please contact JoAnn Casalez, WDVS Executive Director (775.625.1313).

The National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline is a 24-hour hotline, specifically designed for teens and young adults. It offers real-time one-on-one support from trained peer advocates. All communication is confidential and anonymous. It is accessible by phone at **1.866.331.9474** or via the internet at loveisrespect.org. The website provides additional resources for teens, parents, friends and family, peer advocates, government officials, law enforcement officials, and the general public.

For more information, please contact NNADV (775.828.1115) or your local domestic violence agency. For additional resources about teen dating violence, please visit [Teen Dating Violence Prevention Project](#) or [Family Violence Prevention Fund](#).

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About NNADV:

The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence was founded in 1980 to work toward the elimination of domestic and sexual violence against all persons. As Nevada's statewide coalition, NNADV is an inclusive network which both supports its member programs, and educates the public at large. Our agency is based in Reno, but our member programs span the entire state. During 2010, we are celebrating 30 years of empowering Nevada's communities to work on the elimination of domestic violence in our state.

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

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