



Idaho Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Project

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kelly Miller
(208) 384-0419
(208) 284-1724 (cell)

Boise, ID (March 6, 2007) – Twenty outstanding Idaho teens have been selected to participate in the Idaho Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Project, a statewide public awareness effort over the last few weeks, that culminates with the Idaho Summit on Teen Dating Violence on Thursday, March 8 at the Boise Centre on the Grove. The Idaho teens were selected from a large, statewide pool of competitive applicants to serve on a committee of twenty Idaho teens that are committed to increasing awareness and preventing the growing problem of teen dating violence.

During the luncheon at the Idaho Summit on Teen Dating Violence, the teens will be honored for developing a *No Means Know* campaign for their schools and communities, including the development of an Idaho teen dating violence website, www.nomeansknow.com, and the distribution of posters and brochures to every secondary school in the state of Idaho that highlight the facts on teen dating violence.

Bronwen Raff, a Woodriver High School student, developed innovative events for her community and school, including radio spots, presentations in Teen Living classes, an assembly,

and distribution of posters, key chains, arm bands, and wrist bands proclaiming “No Means Know,” which is the project’s slogan. Explaining the importance of this project, Bronwen said, “Helping and caring for people is a life goal of mine and this is the perfect opportunity to be able to share and expand on this goal.”

Katie Seale and Kelsey Eldridge, Boise High students, displayed a large sign for students to pledge to have healthy dating relationships. Christi Avery from a junior high school in Boise set up a booth at her junior high as well as at her local church, distributing the bracelets with the No Means Know website. Weiser High School student, Samantha Larsen, and the local domestic violence shelter sponsored a poster contest. James Walker from Orofino, a town of 4,000, organized a community forum for more than a hundred community members. “It’s great to be part of something that is really changing America, one town, one state at a time,” says Walker. Jaden Cook and Jordyn Bochenek, students from Rexburg, organized a school assembly where one of every three students wore an armband, signifying that one of every three female teens in a dating relationship reports being abused by a dating partner.

Teen dating violence is a serious problem. Forty percent of teenage girls between the ages of 14-17 report knowing someone who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend. One in two teens in a dating relationship reports being pressured to change their values, and one in five teens reports being hit, shoved, pinched, or slapped.

The Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence, St. Luke’s Boise Regional Medical Center, and other partner organizations will honor these teens during the professional Idaho Summit on Teen Dating Violence on March 8. The Idaho Summit will feature national teen dating violence speaker, Dr. Jill Murray, who has appeared on this subject on Oprah, 20/20, Good Morning American, and hundreds of other shows. Dr. Murray has authored several books

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on teen dating violence, one of which will be a featured Lifetime movie on teen dating violence this spring. The Summit is free and open to the public. To register or for more information, contact Kelly Miller at (208) 384-0419.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Teens and experts are available for interviews from 11:30 am–12:30 pm at the Boise Centre on the Grove in the lobby outside the Falcons.