



Providing Education, Assistance and Support to Individuals, Programs and Organizations Dedicated to ending Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Idaho Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Project Funded by the U.S. DOJ Office on Violence Against Women**

Boise, ID (September 5, 2006) – Today, September 5, 2006, the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence accepted a statewide grant in the amount of \$843,888 to support the Idaho Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Project, which will develop a statewide education and prevention strategy on teen dating violence to educate teens, their parents, schools, law enforcement, the legal system, and the medical community on the warning signs of dating violence. Additional education will focus on how to help someone who is being abused, Idaho's laws on dating violence, safety planning, dating rights and responsibilities, local resources, and most important, how to prevent dating violence.

Key partners in the statewide planning effort include St. Luke's Health System, Silver Sage Girl Scouts, Idaho Partners Against Domestic Violence, Treasure Valley YMCA, Idaho School Counselors Association, Idaho Legal Aid Services, Interfaith Alliance of Idaho, and Idaho's domestic violence shelter programs.

Highlights of the two year grant include the selection of ten Idaho teenagers to serve on the Statewide Planning Committee; a public awareness campaign to be implemented during the *National Teen Dating Prevention Week* in February 2007; more than 200 educational presentations for teens; 100 community presentations throughout the state for parents and organizations working with teens; and the Idaho Summit on Teen Dating Violence to be held Thursday, March 8, 2007 at the Boise Centre on the Grove, featuring national speaker Dr. Jill Murray, author of "But I Love Him" and frequent speaker on *Oprah*.

"Teen dating violence is a growing problem across the country and Idaho is no exception," says Sue Fellen, Executive Director of the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence. "This funding will provide critical education, training and statewide

awareness.”

“Idaho has 121,911 students in secondary public schools. One in three female high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused. Through this project we hope to eliminate the prevalence and cultural acceptance of teen dating violence in Idaho,” says Kelly Miller, Legal Director of the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence.

“Idaho’s rural nature makes collaboration imperative when it comes to community concerns,” said Crapo. “This grant will harness the power of community forces--faith-based organizations, youth volunteer organizations, public health providers, educators, local law enforcement and domestic violence advocacy groups and centers—in the effort to educate teens about the crime of dating violence, and promote the values of healthy dating relationships. I enthusiastically support the Coalition and their partners as they initiate this teen-based effort to eradicate teen dating violence in Idaho.”

“St. Luke's Health System is honored to be part of this educational statewide opportunity. Dating violence is an issue that frequently can be overlooked and ignored. The message, 'No Means Know ' demonstrates the importance of education and helping teens avoid these unhealthy and dangerous relationships,” says Sherry Iverson, RN, Director of Women’s and Children’s Community Education at St. Luke’s Boise Medical Center.

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