



WOMEN IN DISTRESS<sup>SM</sup>  
OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC.

ESTABLISHING S·A·F·E<sup>SM</sup>  
STOP ABUSE FOR EVERYONE<sup>SM</sup>

## National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week February 1 - 7, 2010

This marks the fifth year the U.S. Senate has designated the first week in February as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week" in an effort to bring more public awareness to a problem confronting today's teens. Girls and women age 16-24 are at the greatest risk to experience intimate partner violence, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. In addition, according to a 2008 study:

- One in three female teens in a dating relationship report having feared for their safety.
- Thirty percent of teens in a dating relationship have been text-messaged 10, 20, or 30 times an hour by a partner finding out where they are, what they are doing or who they are with.
- One in five teens in a serious relationship report having been hit slapped or pushed by a partner.
- One in four girls in a relationship report having been pressured to go further sexually than they really wanted.

Throughout the first week in February, Women In Distress staff will be visiting Broward County schools to distribute purple awareness ribbons and give presentations on teen dating violence to Broward County students, educating teens on warning signs of abuse and the resources that are available to help them. In addition, several new initiatives are taking place this year, such as:

- **“Teen Dating Violence Skit”**: A fun and informative improvisational skit. The hour-long presentation of “Patrick and Corey” gives students a glimpse at the many facets of an unhealthy relationship by viewing the relationship of Patrick and Corey unfold. Students will be able to identify the red flags of an abusive relationship and will understand how to help not only themselves if they are caught in an abusive relationship, but will also be equipped with the knowledge to offer their friends resources for help. These presentations can take place with large audiences in auditoriums or with smaller audiences in classrooms.
- **“Chalk About It!”**: Invite us to your school to display chalk artwork on your outside common areas, sidewalks, and patios. Working alongside your students, we will

provide messages of peace and will be there to talk and pass out literature about teen dating violence.

- **First-Ever Teen Poetry Contest:** Offer your students time before Teen Dating Violence week to write poetry about teen dating violence and the need for healthy relationships. Then submit the students' work to [americorp@womenindistress.org](mailto:americorp@womenindistress.org). We will select five winners per school and will invite them to read at our "Teen Night."
- **Morning Announcements**

Participating schools and youth serving agencies include: Cypress Bay High School, Monarch High School, Silver Lakes Middle School, Miramar High School, Pace Center for Girls, McNicol Middle School, Memorial Healthcare Systems, Western High School, Flanagan High School, and Attucks Middle School.

Women In Distress will also be partnering with Gameworks at Sawgrass Mills Mall to host "Teen Night" on Saturday, February 6 from 7-9 pm. Gameworks is located at 2608 Sawgrass Mills Circle, Ste. 1303 in Sunrise, FL. During "Teen Night," teens will have access to teen dating violence awareness literature and materials as well as the opportunity to wear a purple ribbon and sign the Teen Dating Bill of Rights to show their support for healthy relationships.