



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PRESS RELEASE

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THE MAYOR'S OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOSTS A TEEN DATING VIOLENCE WORKSHOP FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

As part of their celebration of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

The New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy, an initiative of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence hosted a Teen Dating Violence Workshop for friends and family members of Peer Educators on February 17, 2010. This was an opportunity for friends, family and members of the media to experience firsthand the work of the Academy which has been training teenagers through Peer Educators on the important issue of teen dating violence since 2005.

In New York City, 11% of high school students report having been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend/girlfriend in the last year*. "The work of the New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy is fundamental to teaching teenagers and young adults about healthy and unhealthy relationships," said Kirsten deFur, Director of Prevention Programs and Research. "Knowing how to identify abuse and where to seek help is essential to having a life free from violence and fear".

These workshops are provided at no cost and are highly successful with 92% of participants stating that they learned something new about teen dating violence during the workshop. To date, the Academy has held over 620 workshops, reaching over 12,000 young people throughout the five boroughs.

Today's event was part of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence's celebration of February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month and the fifth anniversary of the Academy. Ten Peer Educators facilitated this workshop consisting of interactive activities designed to encourage discussion about the challenging topic of relationships. Participants learned about the definition and characteristics of dating violence, the dynamics of power and control, characteristics of a healthy relationship, how to help a friend, as well as 23 Warning

*NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Youth Risk Behavior Survey. 2007.

Signs, among other important aspects, in a workshop designed to encourage young people to think critically about their own relationships and seek help whenever needed.

The New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy also introduced a new educational poster, designed to engage young people and raise awareness about the complex issue of dating violence. This poster will be distributed through community based organizations and City agencies that host workshops, and will also be available online to other groups.

The New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy, an initiative of the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence with the support of the Department of Youth and Community Development and the AVON Foundation for Women, was established in 2005 to provide educational and skills-building training for adolescents, parents and youth service providers on the topics of dating violence and healthy relationships. The Academy reaches teens ages 11-24, parents, and staff at different locations, including:

- After-school programs
- Faith communities
- GED, workforce readiness, and internship programs
- High Schools and middle schools, including transfer and alternative schools
- New York City Department of Juvenile Justice detention facilities
- Runaway homeless youth programs
- Summer Youth Employment Programs
- Youth development and leadership programs

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