

# No Means Know

Idaho Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Project

## Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships

### Southwest Idaho Building Healthy Teen Relationships Project

#### Organizational Partners

Idaho Coalition Against  
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Idaho Department of Education

St. Luke's Regional Medical Center

#### Collaborating Partners

Academy of American Pediatrics  
– Idaho Chapter

Boys & Girls Club of Ada County

Boys & Girls Club of Nampa

Central District Health Department

Centers for Disease Control, Prevention  
Division of Violence Prevention

FACES

Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

Idaho Health Educators

Idaho Legal Aid Services

Men Today/Men Tomorrow

Nampa Family Justice Center

Silver Sage Girl Scout Council

Treasure Valley Family YMCA

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Oprah talks to Idaho teens about Chris Brown and Rihanna and the realities of teen dating violence

***Ten Idaho teens from the Idaho Teen Dating Violence Advisory Council and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Start Strong: Building Healthy Relationships Advisory Council will appear on Oprah via Skype this Thursday to discuss teen dating violence.***

Boise, Idaho, March 10, 2009 – The Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence announced today that ten Idaho teens from the Idaho Teen Dating Violence Advisory Council and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Start Strong: Building Healthy Relationships Advisory Council will appear on Oprah via Skype this Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, to discuss teen dating violence.

Felony charges against Chris Brown for his violent behavior against his girlfriend, Rihanna, have brought discussions about teen dating violence into sharp focus. The Oprah Show this Thursday will be dedicated to the “Rihanna’s of the world.” The Idaho Coalition was contacted as result of the work on two projects – the Idaho Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Project and the Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships (Start Strong) Initiative – to gather ten Idaho teens to appear on Oprah this week to talk about teen dating violence.

Idaho is no exception to the increase in teen dating violence. The 2007 Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey found fourteen percent of Idaho students were hit, slapped, or physically hurt by their partners during the past year, while eleven percent of high school girls were forced to have unwanted sex.

In November 2006, the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

A project of the  
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established the Idaho Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Project through a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women, an education and prevention strategy to eliminate the prevalence and cultural acceptance of teen dating violence in Idaho's high schools.

"Teen involvement provides an important contribution to building positive youth development and targeting dating violence behaviors," says Kelly Miller, Project Director. "From the beginning, we recognized the importance of engaging teens in the solution." A Teen Dating Violence Advisory Council was developed and is comprised of twenty high school students from around the state. Six of the teens appearing on Oprah represent the Council – Megan Keller and Christi Avery from Boise, Jaden Cook and Rachel Uhler from Rexburg, James Walker from Orofino, and Monique Betty from Pocatello.

In November 2008, the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence was one of eleven organizations chosen to receive up to a \$1 million grant towards a new Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Start Strong four-year initiative focused on preventing teen dating violence and abuse. The Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence is again collaborating with St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and the Idaho Department of Education and ten collaborating organizations in this community-wide effort to address this serious public health issue. They will be working together through innovative new pathways to educate and engage students age 11 to 14 years old in Southwest Idaho to build healthy relationships and prevent teen dating abuse. Four of the teens appearing on Oprah represent the *Start Strong Teen Advisory Council* and are involved in designing and implementing this prevention initiative. They are Laura Hampikian and Parker Luce from Boise, David Trompke from Eagle, and Hortencia Flores from Parma.

Key partners in both of Idaho's prevention effort are St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and the Idaho Department of Education. St. Luke's Women's & Children's Education Center Director Sherry Iverson, R.N., has been able to secure the active participation of nurses and pediatricians in Idaho's awareness and prevention program. "Visits to emergency rooms and doctor's offices are frequently the results of teen dating violence. This grant has provided us the opportunity to engage health care providers in primary prevention and education; to help teens make healthy choices in relationships and seek resources around the state."

"We have learned that the solution is not easy; developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to prevention is difficult," said Ms. Miller. "But by strengthening the skills for developing healthy relationships among adolescents and fostering awareness of the prevalence of teen dating violence between teens and their parents, schools, and communities, we believe we can reduce the cycle of violence and incidence of intimate partner violence later in life."

#### **Idaho Teens on Oprah Show via Skype:**

Live filming Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 8:00 AM at the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence, 300 E. Mallard Drive, Suite 130, Boise, Idaho 83706.

Teens will be available for interview after the Oprah filming from 9:30 – 11:00 AM.

#### **About the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence:**

*The Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence is a statewide nonprofit dual coalition that advocates on behalf of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Incorporated in 1980, the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence has grown to become a statewide membership network advocating for the safety and rights of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Idaho Coalition oversees two teen dating violence projects – Idaho Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Project and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships Initiative. For more information go to [www.nomeansknow.com](http://www.nomeansknow.com)*

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