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Winter 2012 Newsletter

1 message

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Wed, Jan 18, 2012 at 3:20 PM

expect RESPECT

a program of SafePlace

January 2012

Greetings!

We are looking forward to another exciting and productive year and need your continued commitment more than ever. Despite a growing prevention movement in the U.S. the recent [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey](#) reveals an alarming rate of violence against women. One in 4 has experienced physical abuse from an intimate partner and 1 in 5 has been raped. Nearly half of all female victims experienced their first rape before age 18. The Expect Respect Program works in schools and community settings to prevent dating violence, sexual harassment and bullying. Our partners include youth and the important adults in their lives, teachers, parents, counselors, nurses, artists and many others.

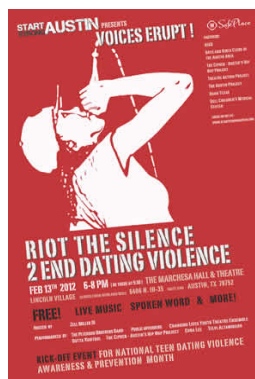
In February, you can take the lead in prevention in your school or organization by recognizing National Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month. [Visit the website for ideas and resources.](#)

Riot the Silence 2 End Dating Violence Kick-off for National Teen Dating Awareness and Prevention Month in Austin

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month is quickly approaching. We are gearing up for our third annual **Riot the Silence 2 End Dating Violence** Kick-off event on Monday, February 13th from 6-8 pm at the Marchesa Event Center near Highland Mall.

[Download the poster.](#)

Please save the date, bring students and join us! Music, Theatre, Hip-Hop, Dance, and Poetry-- all to increase awareness of Teen Dating Violence and promote healthy relationships. We hope to see you there. [Please RSVP.](#)



IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Riot the Silence 2 End Dating Violence Kick-off for National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month](#)
- [Changing Lives Youth Theatre Ensemble](#)
- [Youth Leadership](#)
- [Safe Dates](#)
- [Spotlight on Collaboration](#)
- [Prevention Efforts with Adolescents](#)

EXPECT RESPECT SUPPORT GROUPS:

"Michael" was referred to the Expect Respect group because he was abusive and controlling toward his girlfriend. The more sessions he attended, the more he debated the characteristics of healthy relationships with his Expect Respect facilitator. During one session, he asked the facilitator if he would retaliate if someone called him a name or pushed him. When the facilitator said he wouldn't, Michael told him, he was different than everyone else he had ever met. Perhaps for the first time, Michael had a positive male role model in his life to show him healthy ways of expressing anger.

EXTRAS:

Riot the Silence 2 End Dating Violence Kick-off History

The Austin kick-off event was created in 2005 by

[Check out last years' highlights on the Start Strong Austin homepage!](#)

Changing Lives Youth Theatre Ensemble



Outside the Box is a play about students trying to make sense of their own identities and cope with the drama of high school in a world where labels have become unspoken law. Blending comedy, drama, and a little bit of magic—the Changing Lives Youth

Theatre Ensemble performs an original play about questioning assumptions, repairing broken friendships, and healing from betrayal, as they discover what it means to be who they are without apology.

Outside the Box begins its tour on February 4th with 2 performances at the [Peer Assistance and Leadership \(PALS\) conference](#) at [Akins High School](#). See us next at the **Riot the Silence 2 End Dating Violence** Kick-Off event on February 13th!

For more information about Changing Lives, or to see the Spring Tour Calendar, visit the [CLYTE blog](#) or [Start Strong Austin](#).

Changing Lives is a collaboration between [SafePlace](#) and the [Theatre Action Project](#).

Youth Leadership

Teens at [Covington](#), [Mendez](#) and [Webb](#) Middle Schools have completed Expect Respect leadership training and created inspiring bullying prevention projects. Webb students created a group poem on the use of power. "Do you use your power for good or evil?" will be on display at school in January and will help Webb achieve the "No Place for Hate" designation from the [Anti-Defamation League](#).

Safe Dates

This year, four AISD schools ([Webb](#), [Burnet](#), [Dobie](#) and [Covington](#) Middle Schools) will teach **Safe Dates** in 7th grade to help students recognize the difference between caring, supportive relationships and controlling, abusive relationships. We would like to thank the teachers who are devoting their time to teaching skills for healthy relationships.

Spotlight on Collaboration

In the Fall of 2011, [SafePlace](#), [The Austin Project](#) and [AISD Parent Support Specialists](#), T.A. Vasquez and Jose Carrasco, convened a group of parent leaders to discuss how they could help parents raise their children in as healthy a manner as possible



[Reagan High School](#) students and SafePlace's Shannon Sandra and Zell Miller, III and Bronwyn Blake from [Texas Advocacy Project](#). Idaho's Senator Crapo and the American Bar Association spearheaded the first National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week which was then expanded to a month and recognized by the U.S. Congress and individual states, including Texas. Beginning in 2010 [Start Strong Austin](#) helped sustain and grow the event. Last year 330 teens and adults participated in **Riot the Silence 2 End Dating Violence** at the Marchesa Event Center.

Check out what other communities are up to!

[Pflugerville ISD](#) is hosting **That's Not Cool**, a district-wide kick-off event for National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, on February 15th at [Pflugerville High School](#). Lori Carl and other school social workers will partner with community agencies to provide in-class presentations and art contests in all high schools focusing on topics including dating violence prevention, sexting, bullying, gossiping, picture pressure, stalking and healthy relationships.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:



and protect them from the negative outcomes of unhealthy or abusive sexual and dating behaviors. Weekly planning meetings culminated in a parent workshop at [Mendez Middle School](#) that engaged parents in initiating conversations about these important issues with their middle school children. The parent leaders had a critical role in facilitating the conversation, helping participants overcome the hurdles of talking about sexual and dating behaviors and making the evening successful and energizing.



Prevention Efforts with Adolescents



Barbara Ball and Barri Rosenbluth (pictured left to right), of SafePlace in Austin, Texas, describe their prevention efforts with adolescents. They discuss comprehensive strategies that involve youth leadership, community partnership and policy change to prevent violence. SafePlace was featured in the 2011 report Innovations in

Prevention from the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#).

[Read the full report and listen to the podcast.](#)

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SafePlace is ending sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing, prevention and social change.

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