



A Partnership for Change (APFC) is a New Jersey-based private, non-profit 501(c)3 organization founded in 2007.

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#### We Need Your Support

Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to help support our programs.

##### **Mail:**

PO Box 523, Oradell, NJ 07649

##### **Via the Web:**

[www.APartnershipForChange.org](http://www.APartnershipForChange.org)

## APFC receives funding for **PowerBack**: A Teen Dating Abuse Education Program

APFC recently secured a \$50,000 grant from the New Jersey State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy (SOVWA) to launch our signature **PowerBack** program.

**PowerBack** is a comprehensive teen dating abuse prevention and education initiative that puts the "power back" into the hands of young people, their parents and school staff by equipping them with the information they need to help victims of teen dating abuse and to become active in ending dating violence on campus. With so many teens first turning to each other for help, it is crucial that we provide them with safe and effective intervention techniques and with accurate resource and referral information.

The program is underway at David Brearley High School in Kenilworth; Roselle Park High School in Roselle Park; and at Abraham Clark High School in Roselle, NJ. We welcome them as our newest partners in change and gratefully acknowledge the support of Detective Jim Grady, Andrea Kozodoy, Jackie Mitchell and SOVWA for making this happen.

**PowerBack** is conducted throughout the school year. There are six components:

1. Teen Forum (a two-hour interactive forum for high school girls)
2. A "Call to Action" (recruiting both girls and boys to become peer leaders)
3. Workshop for Parents/Guardians
4. Workshop for School Faculty and Staff
5. Peer Leader Workshops (three sessions designed to fully educate peer leaders)
6. Monthly Peer Meetings (held after the Peer Leader Workshops are completed)

The program has received positive feedback and the word is spreading. In fact, APFC has been contacted by more schools in Union, Bergen and Hudson counties who would like to bring **PowerBack** to their campus next year.

Dating abuse is a widespread problem across the nation and here at home (see survey results below). In the first month of this program, eleven students personally came forward to APFC seeking help. If you'd like to become a partner in change and help to support this vital program, please contact us at [Info@APartnershipForChange.org](mailto:Info@APartnershipForChange.org).

## Results from APFC's Teen Forum Surveys

Schools participating in the APFC survey: David Brearley HS; Roselle Park HS; Abraham Clark HS; Arthur Johnson HS; and New Providence HS. Of the 1,003 girls surveyed, 92% said that dating abuse is happening in their school and 79% said they'd like to learn more about the issue. In addition:

- 61% personally know someone who is a victim
- 32% believe that victims are somewhat responsible for the abuse
- 27% have been physically hurt (punched, slapped, grabbed, kicked) by a partner
- 28% have been yelled at, threatened, criticized, put down or humiliated by a partner
- 10% have submitted to sexual pressure on a date out of fear
- 20% say they have witnessed domestic violence at home (200 families affected)
- 75% say they would first go to a friend for help rather than a parent, teacher or other adult

# APFC Partners with Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey on a New Domestic Violence Education Program

## *Workshops Designed to Enhance Skills for Family Workers & Other Professionals*

Continuing their commitment to domestic violence education and awareness, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey (PCA-NJ) and A Partnership for Change (APFC) are offering a unique opportunity for professionals who work with families to enhance their knowledge about domestic violence. The Intimate Partner Violence Advocate (IPVA) certification program is a series of five classes where participants learn about the dynamics of abuse in relationships, how domestic violence affects children, how to safely and effectively provide advocacy and support to families, how to develop safety plans, and where to go for information and support. Participants can register for all five classes for the IPVA certificate, or they can take individual classes if they have some background knowledge of domestic violence.

The program is targeted to social workers, guidance counselors, healthcare and law enforcement personnel, business leaders, volunteers, college students and others working in family services. The workshops are hosted by PCA-NJ at their training facility in New Brunswick, NJ and the workshops are conducted by APFC. Classes run from 10AM to 4PM. The 2009/2010 schedule is as follows:

**Domestic Violence 101** : (required for IPVA certificate): Offered two times: Oct. 5 and Dec. 14, 2009; **Understanding the Victim Survivor**: Oct. 26, 2009; **Effects of Domestic Violence on Children**: Nov. 20, 2009; **Teen Dating Abuse**: Jan. 21, 2010; and **Community Action & Response**: Feb. 11, 2010.

PCA-NJ is offering a special introductory price of \$125 per class/ \$500 for the series. Registration is required and lunch is provided.

**Please contact PCA-NJ at (732) 246-8060 x109 for information or to register.**

### In The News:

APFC's PowerBack program was highlighted in the Newark Star Ledger on Oct. 5, 2009; in The Bergen Record on Oct. 13, 2009; in The Cranford Chronicle on Oct. 10, 2009; and in Union County's Local Source on Oct. 13, 2009. To read the full articles, go to our website: [www.APartnershipForChange.org](http://www.APartnershipForChange.org).

Allison and Gloria also appeared on the 5 o'clock news on WMBC-TV, a local NJ station based in West Caldwell. The segment aired on October 19, 2009.

Thanks to **Verizon Wireless** for their generous support of our programs in 2008 and 2009!

### APFC in the Community

APFC is honored to have been invited by the following organizations to conduct presentations on domestic violence and dating abuse. We applaud their commitment to educate their staff, students, clients and members about the issue:

*Carlstadt School District*

*Union County Prosecutors Office*

*Kean University*

*New Providence High School*

*Montclair State University*

*Arthur Johnson High School*

*New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women*

*David Brearley High School*

*Union County Juvenile Officers Association*

*Abraham Clark High School*

*Roselle Park High School*

**APFC's Mission Statement:** To break the cycle of abuse in all relationships by offering comprehensive prevention and awareness programs that educate and empower communities to end family violence.

Did you know that one out of every four women (and one out of three teenage girls) in the United States is, or has been, a victim of abuse? So it is likely that someone you know and care about has been affected by this national crisis. Do you know how to help them? Do you know where to go for information and support? APFC can provide the answers to those questions.

APFC programs are designed to help audiences understand the dynamics of abuse and to provide them with the knowledge to effectively – and safely – respond to someone in their family, workplace or community who needs information and support. Programs are offered to school personnel, students, business leaders, law enforcement personnel, healthcare professionals, social service workers, and community groups throughout New Jersey. Contact us about workshops and presentations that will increase your knowledge and empower you to make a difference in the lives of those you care about. For information, visit us at:

**[www.APartnershipForChange.org](http://www.APartnershipForChange.org)**