

PowerBack Teen Program Returns!

APFC secures \$45,000 from the New Jersey State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy (SOVWA) to continue and expand its popular teen dating abuse education and awareness program in Union County

We are pleased to report that PowerBack is expanding this year. Thanks to this new funding, we are able to add Union Catholic Regional High School to the program and continue our work in David Brearley High School, Roselle Park High School and Abraham Clark High School. PowerBack was a great success last year; all program goals were met or exceeded.

2009-2010 School Year Highlights

- Conducted school-wide forums reaching 769 girls
- Educated 217 teachers and 77 parents/guardians
- Provided crisis counseling and referrals to 14 adult victims and 27 teen victims who came forward
- Taught 105 PowerBack members (236% above goal!) how to safely and effectively help friends and classmates resulting in 46 teen victims helped by PowerBack peer leaders this past year
- Disseminated information to 1,015 students and recruited 89 new members at the June awareness events



Awareness Event at Abraham Clark HS

We thank Carrie Speiser, Teen Advocate for her efforts in guiding and educating the students in the monthly meetings; their awareness events held in June were a great success. We also thank the principals, staff and students at the participating schools for their support and commitment to the program; their devotion of time, energy and passion to PowerBack is inspiring to us.

“Students really embraced PowerBack; I have seen it make a dramatic change in our student body.” – Sarah Costa, Principal of Roselle Park HS

“Not only students but faculty and parents have expressed a strong desire to continue the program.” – Brian Luciani, Principal of David Brearley HS



Schedule a Teen Forum at Your School

The forum is one part of the PowerBack program that we offer to schools at an affordable rate of \$500 per session. At this time, the forum is targeted to high school girls only, as they are the majority of victims of abuse and feedback indicates that girls feel more comfortable opening up and speaking freely in a single-gender setting.

APFC facilitates this activity with support from school staff and guidance department. The 2-hour program includes a short video, guided discussion, a question and answer session, and materials. APFC also conducts a confidential survey of teen girls to gauge the climate of abuse on campus.

Email us for details: Info@APartnershipforChange.org

In their own words: PowerBack students provided us with feedback on the program this year...

I have learned what to look out for not only for myself but my friends as well...Most of all, I wish we met more often. I liked talking, sharing and the different handouts... I wish we could meet once a week. I liked the open, safe environment of the meetings...I didn't realize all the types of abuse; I learned how to help others who are being abused...The meetings and talks were helpful. PowerBack opened my eyes to what to look for and how to get help... It is an awesome program... Thanks for speaking not only of relationships but also about abuse in family life... PowerBack has opened my eyes in what to look for in a relationship.

APFC Awarded Grant for Police Program

\$44,000 secured from the NJ Division of Criminal Justice as part of the STOP Violence Against Women Act Recovery Grant Program

A Partnership for Change (APFC) launched a new initiative this year called PREP (Police Response Enhancement Program), a series of workshops designed to help law enforcement personnel effectively identify and respond to victims of domestic violence. The program is done in partnership with twelve police departments in Union County, NJ. All law enforcement officers are required to complete four hours of training on domestic violence each year; PREP offers them the opportunity to choose one of the following specialized sessions to fulfill this requirement:

- *Domestic Violence "101" and the Effects of Domestic Violence on Children*
- *Domestic Violence "101" and Teen Dating Abuse*
- *Domestic Violence "101 and Understanding the Victim/Survivor of Abuse*

Workshops will run on a rotating basis through April 2011 at the Police Academy in Scotch Plains. Flexible scheduling allows for maximum participation of law enforcement personnel who works shifts around the clock. Email us at PREP@APartnershipforChange.org for all dates/times.

APFC greatly appreciates the support of the Union County Prosecutor's Office. We are also grateful to the chiefs, captains, officers and detectives who expressed a need for the program; their input was invaluable in developing PREP. APFC looks forward to working with our newest "partners in change" to enhance services to victims of domestic violence.

IPVA Certification Series Continues at PCA-NJ

APFC will continue its partnership with Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey (PCA-NJ) and offer the Intimate Partner Violence Advocate (IPVA) certification series again this year. Classes run throughout the year.

- ✓ All classes are held at PCA-NJ's training facility in New Brunswick, NJ from 10am to 4pm
- ✓ Lunch and materials are provided
- ✓ Each class is \$125, or you can enroll for the certification and take all five classes for \$500
- ✓ Continuing education credits and contact hours are available for nurses and social workers
- ✓ Registration is required. Please go to our website or call PCA-NJ at (732) 246-8060 x109 to secure your reservation.

For class descriptions and schedule, go to:

www.APartnershipforChange.org

www.PreventChildAbuseNJ.org

We thank Carole O'Brien at PCA-NJ for her guidance and for her support of this initiative.

APFC Offers Continuing Education Credits to Nurses and Social Workers

Attention social workers and nurses: You can receive credit for participating in APFC's workshops. While these credits are primarily secured via the IPVA Certification program, your organization can also sponsor workshops. APFC provides the following credits for participation:

- **Nurses:** 5.5 contact hours for Domestic Violence 101, The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children, and Teen Dating Abuse.
- **Social Workers:** 5.5 non-clinical continuing education credits for Domestic Violence 101, The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children, Teen Dating Abuse, and Understanding the Victim/Survivor

Attendance for the entire class is required for credits.

Our First Fundraiser!

APFC's Board of Trustees hosted the agency's first fundraiser at the Rock Cellar in West Orange, New Jersey and raised nearly \$2,000 to support programs, services and operating costs.

We thank all who joined us to learn more about what we do; we are so appreciative of your generous contributions and of your support of our mission and our work.

If you'd like to help us plan our next event, or if you'd like to organize an event on our behalf, please contact us at Info@APartnershipforChange.org. Now, more than ever, we need your help.

Since our last newsletter, we are pleased to add the following groups, businesses and organizations to the growing list of partners who are committed to educating their staff, students, members and clients about domestic violence and dating abuse:

- *Children's Aid & Family Services of Bergen County*
- *Mahwah High School*
- *Municipal Alliance of Ridgewood*
- *Chubb & Son, Inc.*
- *Robins' Nest Family Services, Glassboro, NJ*
- *Roselle Collaborative for Youth & Families*
- *Keansburg High School*
- *Trenton Policy Prevention Board*

APFC Co-Founders/Co-Directors: Allison Bressler, MA and Gloria Sgrizzi

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A Partnership for Change (APFC) is a New Jersey-based 501(c)(3) private, non-profit organization. Our mission is to break the cycle of abuse in all relationships by offering comprehensive prevention and awareness programs that educate and empower communities to end intimate partner violence.