

APFC Expands PowerBack & PREP

New support from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant program will enhance services

We are pleased to announce that new funding will allow for the expansion of our PowerBack and PREP initiatives:

PowerBack is our signature program designed to reduce dating abuse by educating young people about the issue and by teaching them how to safely and effectively help their peers. It also includes individual psycho-educational support and components to educate faculty, administrators, and parents/guardians/caregivers. New funding supports the full program in six new schools in northern New Jersey and follow-up services in six of our former PowerBack schools in Union County. Our surveys of 13,271 teens in NJ reveal that 73% said dating abuse is happening at their school and 57% would first go to a friend for help (before a parent, counselor or hotline). Since 2009, APFC has certified 465 PowerBack peer leaders; provided 621 teen victims with information, support and referral; and educated 1,432 adults.

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

PREP is a series of workshops designed to help law enforcement personnel effectively respond to victims of domestic violence. The goals of PREP are to help police officers to identify the needs of victims; enhance communication with victims; reduce recidivism; and connect victims to critical support services. New funding supports PREP in Union and Monmouth counties and expansion into Middlesex and Somerset counties. To date, 1,972 law enforcement professionals in New Jersey have participated with 98% of them reporting that they enhanced their intervention abilities and would recommend the program to colleagues.

Call to Action: We Need Your Support!

If you are interested in joining the Board of Trustees, we'd like to hear from you! As part of our board, we ask that you bring your passion, expertise and professional skills to bear to help us meet our mission and goals.

Board members are asked to attend quarterly meetings in Park Ridge, NJ; vote on pressing issues; help to expand APFC's reach in the community; and financially support programs through an annual personal contribution within your means or by spearheading a fundraising effort.

Goals for 2018 that we need help with include securing donated office space in Union County; launching a corporate outreach program; expanding public relations efforts; initiating an annual appeal; identifying in-kind support for guidance on matters relating to contracts, insurance coverage, and human resource compliance. Now, more than ever, we need your help.

Contact us at: Info@APartnershipforChange.org for more information.

Domestic Violence Affects Everyone

APFC's programs are designed to help anyone understand the dynamics of abuse and how they can safely and effectively assist loved ones, friends, co-workers, clients, employees, patients, students – anyone who needs support. We invite you to reach out to us and schedule a presentation for your community organization or business, or to learn more about the issue.

We know that many of the problems in our society today that affect all of us – teen dating abuse, bullying, teen pregnancy, high school dropout rates, poverty, gang violence, crime, substance abuse, eating disorders and depression – can be linked to exposure to domestic violence. Education and awareness programs play a key role in reducing domestic violence, but all community members are needed to help in this effort.

Tax-deductible donations are deeply appreciated and can be mailed to APFC, PO Box 523, Oradell, NJ 07649.

APFC Launches New Program

DATA is designed for Student Assistance Counselors

With new support from the STOP VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) grant program, APFC is pleased to report the launch of a new program called **DATA (Dating Abuse Training & Assistance)**, which is specially designed for Student Assistance Counselors (SACs) in NJ.

DATA addresses the epidemic of teen dating abuse in our state as documented by our surveys of 14,000+ high school students in our PowerBack program. Surveys revealed:

- 70% of the girls and 62% of the boys said dating abuse is happening at their school
- 53% of girls and 38% of boys report one or more forms of abuse in a current or prior relationship!

After participating in **DATA**, participants will be able to:

- ✓ Define the dynamics, types and warning signs of teen dating violence
- ✓ Identify strategies to effectively identify, approach and support teens (includes addressing concerns of confidentiality)
- ✓ Understand the components of a safety plan and how to properly document incidents on campus
- ✓ Enhance understanding of policies and protocols that increase victim safety and hold abusers accountable
- ✓ Identify age-appropriate resource and referral information for support

DATA classes will be held in Bergen, Union and Cumberland counties in 2018-19. The program is free of charge and open to all SAC's in NJ. Certificate, program materials and light refreshments are provided.

For more information, or to register, email us: DATA@APartnershipForChange.org

IPVA Certification Series

The IPVA (Intimate Partner Violence Advocate) program is an in-depth professional education series for social workers, nurses, victim advocates, counselors, human service professionals, and educators.

IPVA consists of five classes:

- 1) DV101: Domestic Violence Introduction
- 2) DV102: Understanding the Victim/Survivor
- 3) The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
- 4) Teen Dating Abuse
- 5) DV103: Advocacy & Community Response

Time: 10 AM to 4 PM

Location: 103 Church St., New Brunswick, NJ

Cost: \$110 per class or \$500 for the series

Materials, certificate and light refreshments are included.

- ✓ We provide continuing education credits for social workers; and DVS credits for domestic violence advocates.
- ✓ 500+ professionals in NJ have participated since 2009; 100% reported on confidential evaluations that they'd recommend IPVA to colleagues.
- ✓ You can take all five classes or just one or two.
- ✓ Registration REQUIRED – Email us for info

Classes Start on September 13, 2018

IPVA@APartnershipForChange.org

APFC Featured on Push Pause segment on FIOS1 in New Jersey

APFC Co-Directors, Allison Bressler (left) and Gloria Sgrizzi were featured in a May 2018 segment of Push Pause, a Verizon FIOS1 news program that features non-profits in New Jersey. The segment highlighted work that we do in our PREP and PowerBack programs.

We are grateful for this acknowledgement and thank FIOS1 for bringing attention our mission, and for supporting our efforts on behalf of victims of intimate partner abuse. The piece was filmed at the Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute during a PREP class.

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

- Sources for Human Services
- IronBound Community Services
- Halsey Academy, Newark
- Union County Vocational Schools
- HPAAE (Health Professionals & Allied Employees)
- Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey
- Roselle Park High School

#PowerBackNJ

PowerBack peer leaders got their message out on Instagram by posting photos of their awareness events with the hashtag #PowerBackNJ. Photos showed how they were promoting healthy relationships and taking a stand against dating abuse.



A Partnership for Change (APFC) is a New Jersey-based 501(c)(3) private, non-profit organization dedicated to ending intimate partner abuse.

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

APFC Board of Trustees

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You can also help support APFC when shopping on AmazonSmile – Amazon donates a percent of your purchase to us at no cost to you.

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