



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Rachel Mabrey, 712-256-2059 ext. 1002

rmabrey@dmdiocese.org

CatholicCharitiesDM.org

Prevention through education focus of Phoenix House efforts during February which is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Council Bluffs, Iowa - February is known nationally as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and Catholic Charities' Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program will highlight the need for prevention education alongside organizations across the country throughout the month.

In addition to ongoing efforts to educate youth about dating violence and healthy relationships, the Phoenix House is planning several special events during the month including:

- Monday, Jan. 31 at 11 a.m. Council Bluffs' Mayor Tom Hanafan, joined by youth from St. Albert's Catholic High School, will sign a proclamation announcing February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.
- Saturday, February 12, the Phoenix House will join Iowa Western Community College at their Basketball Double Header against Indian Hills to promote healthy relationships and dating violence prevention. The women's tip off is at 5 p.m. and the men's tip off is at 7 p.m. Door prizes will be given to the first 100 people at each game.

The Phoenix House has been actively providing teen dating violence prevention education to the community and in the schools for several years now, but there is still much work to be done with today's youth says Phoenix House Public Educator, Vicki-lynn Anderson.

"When you ask teenagers today what dating violence is, most of them can tell you the categories. But ask them what goes into a healthy relationship and a lot of them draw a blank."

Anderson works with all age groups, from elementary to college, and uses age-appropriate curriculum to spread awareness and educate youth about violence with an emphasis on prevention.

The Phoenix House, a program of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Des Moines, is a domestic violence shelter and sexual abuse program located in Council Bluffs and serves Pottawattamie, Harrison, Fremont & Mills counties in Iowa. For more information visit www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org or call 712-256-2059 ext. 1002.