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Parents of Slain Teen Bring Hope to Community on Anniversary of Daughter's Death

Family's Donation Results in New Tool to Prevent Dating Violence

The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence released a groundbreaking scenario-based training today for adults who work or interact with teens. *In Their Shoes: Teens and Dating Violence* shows what dating is like for today's teens – from their perspective. The parents of Dayna Fure - murdered by her ex-boyfriend on May 24, 2004, just before she was to graduate from Stanwood High School - funded the development of this training to invest in the lives of others and to turn their grief into action.

“Our goal is to make a difference in the lives of others,” said Melody Hafner, mother of Dayna Fure. “I feel that my daughter did what she thought was right, but many people that she went to for advice needed more knowledge. It is my hope that when people experience *In Their Shoes* they get more information about what to look and listen for.”

According to the *American Journal of Public Health*, one in three teens has experienced some form of abuse in their dating relationship. “Abuse can look different in teen vs. adult relationships,” said Nan Stoops, executive director of the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. “How we respond needs to differ as well.”

In Their Shoes: Teens and Dating Violence is a training kit for any group of adults such as teachers, counselors, youth group leaders, law enforcement, or parents. Participants become one of six teen characters. They make choices about their relationships and move through the scenario by reading about interactions with their dating partner, family, friends, police, counselors, and others. The teen characters are based on the experiences of real teens that include sexting, pregnancy, homophobia and stalking.

“We all have a role to play in teaching teens about healthy relationships,” said Stoops. “*In Their Shoes* gives adults the tools to get the conversation started.” For more information on *In Their Shoes* along with resources for teens and concerned adults, visit www.wscadv.org.

About the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Founded in 1990 by survivors of domestic violence and their allies, the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a non-profit network of over 65 domestic violence advocacy programs across the state of Washington. Our work includes research, training, promoting domestic violence awareness, violence prevention, and public policy advocacy. To learn more, please visit our website at www.wscadv.org.