



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

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**What:** **I STAND FOR HEALTHY LOVE**, a month-long series of events helping teens identify abusive love and build healthy relationships skills

Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month is a national effort to raise awareness about abuse in teen relationships and promote prevention programs during the month of February. **What is LOVE**, Santa Barbara Public Library, and Santa Barbara Youth Council are proud to present the **"I STAND FOR HEALTHY LOVE,"** a series of events and activities designed to increase awareness of Teen Dating Abuse and to educate our community's teens, and parents about the importance of healthy relationships.

**The #1 indicator for school success, increased test scores, reduced fighting/bullying, and increased happiness. HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.**

However, **ONE in THREE** teens report experiencing physical, verbal/emotional, sexual or cyber abuse in a dating relationship and **most teens never tell or ask for help**. Dating abuse is not just dangerous and sometimes deadly, teens who experience abuse in a relationship exhibit decreased grades, higher rates of truancy, higher rates of violence, school drop-out rates, drug abuse, risky sexual behavior and an increased risk of suicide. "Identifying dating abuse and building healthy relationships skills has long-term benefits" says Christy Haynes MA Psy, What is LOVE founder.

Please join **What is LOVE**, Santa Barbara Youth Council, and Santa Barbara Public Library:

- **TEEN ART WALL INSTALLATION:** Located on the main floor of the Santa Barbara Public Library, 40 East Anapamu. Check out a book from the February Reading list, sign the I STAND FOR HEALTHY LOVE pledge, TAKE THE dating quiz, PIN an example of healthy love on the ART WALL. Community service and healthy love activity available at Youth desk.
- **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14th:** ALL-SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT- We have invited High Schools from Santa Maria to Carpinteria to participate in the "I STAND FOR HEALTHY LOVE" 2014 School Announcement. Designed to be read over a PA system or to individual classes, the Announcement directs young people to visit [www.whatisloveteens.org](http://www.whatisloveteens.org) to learn more about how to prevent and end abusive relationships.
- **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28th:** Indulge at the "I STAND FOR HEALTHY LOVE" Ice Cream Social at Santa Barbara Public Library, 40 East Anapamu Street, Townley Room from 3:30-4:30PM. Participate in the Ugly/Awesome Activity, MEET new friends, EAT lots of ice cream. Community service hours available.

**For more information please contact Christy Haynes, What is LOVE at (805-705-0011).**



**Community Partners and Sponsors:**

- **Santa Barbara Central Library**  
Contact: Jayne Lee, Youth and Teen Services Outreach Coordinator  
Phone: 805-564-5646 [jlee@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:jlee@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)
- **Freedom4Youth**  
Contact: Billi Jo Starr (805) 689-3755 [billijo@freedom4youth.org](mailto:billijo@freedom4youth.org)
- **Santa Barbara Youth Council**  
Contact: Susan Young (805) 897-2650 [SYoung@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:SYoung@santabarbaraca.gov)