



# TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION

## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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**What:** **What is LOVE for Santa Barbara County, a Teen Dating Violence Prevention Organization, launches month-long series of events, "I STAND FOR HEALTHY LOVE".**

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** and Community Partners 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 higher rates of violence, school drop-out rates, drug abuse, risky sexual behavior and suicide. "Identifying dating abuse and building healthy relationships skills has long-term benefits" says Christy Haynes MA Psy, What is LOVE founder.

**Join Mayor Helene Schneider, Senator Hanna-Beth Jackson & Assembly Member Das Williams**

**When: Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> "I STAND FOR HEALTHY LOVE" Launch**

**Where: Lovebird Boutique, 7 East De la Guerra Street, Santa Barbara**

**Time: 2PM-5PM**

- Music from LOCAL teen bands "SOZO" & "TRIP ACES", from Santa Barbara Youth Music Academy
- DELISH EATS & SWEETS Provided BY FREEDOM4YOUTH Culinary Program
- TEEN ART WALL
- **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>: 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 28<sup>th</sup>:** Indulge at the "I STAND FOR HEALTHY LOVE" Ice Cream Social at Santa Barbara Public Library, Townley Room from 3:30-4:30PM.

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



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### 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)
- **Santa Barbara Youth Music Academy**  
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Contact: Billi Jo Starr (805) 689-3755 [billijo@freedom4youth.org](mailto:billijo@freedom4youth.org)
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Contact: Jennifer Scarbrough (805) 884-0242 [jennifer@ziajewelry.com](mailto:jennifer@ziajewelry.com)
- **Santa Barbara Youth Council**  
Contact: Susan Young (805) 897-2650 [SYoung@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:SYoung@santabarbaraca.gov)