



Inspiring healthy dating relationships

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Understanding Teen Dating Violence Through a Restorative Justice Lens at Santa Barbara High School

WHAT: What is LOVE has created a multi-media Assembly to help teens

- Identify and avoid abusive relationships
- Understand the harm caused by unhealthy relationships
- Believe they are deserving of extraordinary love qualities
- Empower teens to ask for help

WHY: Teen dating violence is an **urgent, silent epidemic in Santa Barbara County. One in three teens** report experiencing physical, emotional, sexual, and cyber abuse in a dating relationship and most teens never report the abuse to anyone. Dating violence is not just dangerous and sometimes deadly, teens experiencing abuse in a relationship exhibit higher rates of violence, school drop-out rates, drug abuse, high-risk sexual behavior and suicide.

The **What is LOVE** Assembly tells a compelling true story about a teen involved in a violent dating relationship for six years. "Maria" shares her story, in her own words, her experience, to help teens identify abusive qualities and encourage them to ask for help.

WHEN: THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2013 AT 9:00AM - 10:00AM

WHERE: Santa Barbara High School at 700 E Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, CA
(805) 966-9101

What is LOVE is an educational organization, dedicated to providing innovative programming, engaging teens to recognize the difference between abusive love and extraordinary love. We approach teen dating violence through creative outreach employing technology, the power of storytelling, and building on teens inherent capacity to choose healthy relationships. The curriculum employs social emotional skills such as empathy, effective communication, problem solving, and restorative philosophy. The outreach materials are created by teens for teens, trusting that they know best how to bring awareness to this violence.

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