

breakingNEWS

ENGAGE • EDUCATE • EMPOWER WINTER 2010

Break the Cycle

Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence

Have a Heart Campaign



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. To celebrate, Break the Cycle is launching our “Have a Heart” Campaign.

We invite everyone from teens to teachers to elected officials to raise awareness about dating violence and take action against abuse.

Get to the Heart of the Matter – On February 10, students from across the nation will hear a message of healthy relationships as part of their morning announcements. The first 100 schools to register will receive a free copy of Break the Cycle’s [Ending Violence] curriculum, courtesy of Mary Kay Inc. Register your school today at haveaheartcampaign.org.

Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeve – Attach a heart cut-out or sticker to your sleeve every day in February. Update your Facebook status to the symbol for a heart with the message: “My heart is on my sleeve. Learn why at haveaheartcampaign.org.”

HOPE with All Your Heart – February is the perfect time to join Break the Cycle’s HOPE. You’ll instantly become part of a membership organization dedicated to ending violence. We’re featuring new ways for HOPE members to take action every week this month, such as writing letters to urge policy-makers to “put their hearts in the right place” and increase protection for youth experiencing abuse. Don’t miss out!

Have a Heart-to-Heart – Share information about the warning signs of abuse and healthy relationship behavior with your child or friend. We have all the tools to get you started at haveaheartcampaign.org.

Heart Someone – Break the Cycle is premiering health-e relationship cards as part of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Send a card and spread the love at haveaheartcampaign.org.

With national attention on dating violence, you can make a real difference in raising awareness. “Have a Heart” – join Break the Cycle. <3

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Check out our newly designed website breakthecycle.org in mid-February!

the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I am absolutely thrilled to welcome 2010. This year, Break the Cycle is poised to expand our role as a leader in the domestic violence movement. I have no doubt this will be one of our most exciting, challenging and important years to date.

Last year everyone at Break the Cycle worked hard to build a broad base of partners, from Mary Kay Inc. to Girl Scouts to MTV to the Family Violence Prevention Fund. These friends are helping us lay a stable foundation for the monumental plans ahead.

We are hosting the **National Resource Center** for Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month—a hub of information for service-providers, parents, teachers and students nationwide available at teenDVmonth.org.

We restructured the organization to place greater emphasis on our strongest assets—our talented staff, our institutional knowledge about serving teens and our focus on technology-based service delivery. Among these changes, we promoted Colleen Gallopin to Director of Training & Technical Assistance to oversee the expansion of our tools that bolster existing programs and resources in communities across the country.

We are launching the **Ask Anything! widget**—an interactive tool that allows our online help resource to exist beyond its home base on thesafespace.org and seamlessly integrate with any other website. Now, teens can connect directly to the help they need to avoid and escape abusive relationships from anywhere in cyberspace.

When I reflect on the incredible accomplishments of 2009, I am filled with enormous gratitude for the remarkable effort of our staff, volunteers and supporters. Because of your dedication, Break the Cycle succeeded in the face of a daunting economy and a dramatic increase in demand for our services. Thank you so much for your continued support of our mission to end domestic violence. Let's make 2010 our year to remember!

Sincerely,



Marjorie Gilberg
Executive Director



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SUPPORTER spotlight

Break the Cycle's work would not be possible without the generous support from the following:

The US Department of Justice **Office on Violence Against Women** granted Break the Cycle nearly \$400,000 to continue serving as its go-to expert on teen dating violence. In the coming year, we will target rural communities to ensure these underserved youth get the help they need.

As part of the Recovery Act, the **DC Office of Victim Services** gave more than \$100,000 to Break the Cycle, allowing us to hire an additional attorney and expand our local legal services to teens. The **DC Justice Grants Administration** also supported our local DC programs with a grant of nearly \$54,000.

The US Department of Justice **Office for Victims of Crime** awarded Break the Cycle nearly \$75,000 to underwrite a public education campaign engaging sexual-minority youth around dating violence. This ground-breaking initiative will bring together community leaders from across Southern California as we address the unique needs LGBTQ youth face when encountering abuse.

RGK Foundation gave Break the Cycle \$20,000 to adapt our [Ending Violence] curriculum for select regional Girl Scout Councils. Launching in 2010, this partnership will teach thousands of young women across several states how to prevent, diagnose and escape unhealthy relationships.

This year, Break the Cycle launched the [Ending Violence] Residency, our comprehensive school-readiness program, in Los Angeles with a grant of \$25,000 from **Verizon Foundation** and in Washington, DC with a grant of \$5,000 from **Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation**.

Other notable funders of our Los Angeles education programs include **Macy's Foundation** who gave \$7,500, as well as **Northrop Grumman** and **TJX Foundation** who donated \$5,000 each. **Target** contributed \$4,000 to support our local work in both offices, while **Soroptimist International LA West-Santa Monica** made a gift of \$2,700 towards our Los Angeles efforts.

Our Washington, DC office extended its support base with **The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation** renewing their gift of \$10,000 and **The DC Bar Foundation** making its first grant of \$5,000. These gifts support Break the Cycle's comprehensive efforts to address abuse, including our direct legal services to DC teens.

Long time supporter **Liz Claiborne Foundation** renewed its commitment to Break the Cycle's work with \$15,000 for our education and help services in Los Angeles County.

Break the Cycle is pleased to thank our many supporters for joining us in ending dating violence.

Yes! I want to give in honor of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.
Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation to support Break the Cycle.

\$10 HOPE annual membership

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Other generous amount \$ _____

Check enclosed – payable to Break the Cycle

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Will your employer match your donation?
If yes, please enclose form.

Mail to: Break the Cycle, 5777 W. Century Blvd.,
Suite 1150, Los Angeles, CA 90045

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survivor spotlight



Recently, we received an email from a frightened young woman whose boyfriend had threatened to kill her. She needed protection and a safe place to go, but was scared to ask for help. Her boyfriend had easy access to legal resources – something she worried would be nearly impossible for her to get.

Within two days, we were able to connect her to legal services in her community and a local shelter where she could find a safe haven. Without **thesafespace.org**, she might not have found the help she needed to escape abuse.

Ending an abusive relationship is never easy, and many teens don't know where to get help. Break the Cycle connects teens with the resources they need through **thesafespace.org**, the most comprehensive site for young people experiencing abuse.

LATEST **BTCYP** NEWS

Want to Help?

Join HOPE, Break the Cycle's National Membership Program, and become part of the effort dedicated to ensuring our young people have the right to safe and healthy relationships. Visit breakthecycle.org/hope for more information.



Break the Cycle Young Professionals (BTCYP) is Growing!

In December, our BTCYP Leadership Committee in Washington, DC hosted five successful fundraising events themed around beer-tasting, clothing swap and wine and cheese. Through these parties, the committee of 12 young professionals engaged the DC community in helping to end teen dating violence.

In October 2009, BTCYP Los Angeles hosted another fun Bingo event at Hamburger Mary's in West Hollywood, CA. The committee is pleased to announce that plans for The UnMasquerade 2010 are in full swing. The event is scheduled to take place in Los Angeles in April.

For a calendar of events and to learn more, visit breakthecycle.org or contact btcp@breakthecycle.org.

Thank you to our Donors

Break the Cycle gratefully acknowledges our generous donors. The listing below reflects donors with cash contributions over \$100 in 2009.

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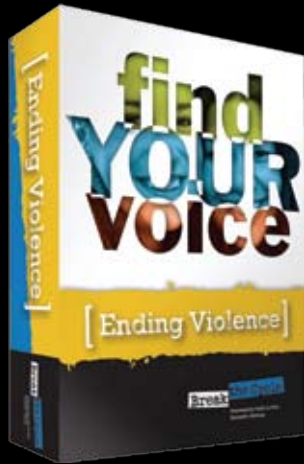
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New Resources

FROM BREAK THE CYCLE

[ENDING VIOLENCE] CURRICULUM

Educating youth to end dating abuse.



ASK ANYTHING! WIDGET

Connecting teens to life-saving services.



MODEL POLICY

Helping schools comprehensively address dating violence



* Find out more at www.breakthecycle.org



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