



Lindsay Ann Burke MEMORIAL FUND

Supporting the prevention of relationship violence.

LABMF Newsletter, Edition 5

Fall 2009

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The Burkes go to Washington!

On June 10, Ann testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee at the Capitol upon the request of its Chairman, Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont. The Violence Against Women's Act, VAWA, is up for reauthorization in 2 years, and Senator Leahy is assuming the leadership role on this front from Vice-President Biden. Ann testified about Lindsay's story, the need for teen dating violence education, the Lindsay Ann Burke Act and its national impact, as well as LABMF's role in providing teen dating violence training for school staff to support implementation of the Rhode Island law. Chris and Ann met with RI Sen. Whitehouse and other legislators to reinforce their message. In addition, they met Gabrielle Union, actress and rape victim, who testified about the need for sexual assault education.



Chris and Ann Burke with Gabrielle Union after the SJC hearing

Nebraska passes the Lindsay Ann Burke Act!

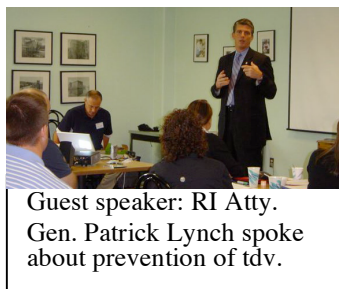
As a result of the efforts of Nebraska Atty General Jon Bruning, the Nebraskan legislature passed the Lindsay Ann Burke Act on May 28, 2009. Thank you to AG Bruning for having foresight and taking action to pass this comprehensive law that will ensure that teens in Nebraska will get the education they deserve and need about the major, long-neglected health problem of teen dating violence.

MUST READ BOOK . . .



The time to learn about teen dating violence is before it becomes a problem for your teen and your family. Parents need to know ALL the facts about dating violence before their teen is involved in an abusive relationship. A must-read book for all parents is **What Parents Need to Know About Dating Violence** by Barrie Levy.

Health Teacher Trainings



Guest speaker: RI Atty. Gen. Patrick Lynch spoke about prevention of tdv.

36 health teachers were trained in teen dating violence education at Davies Career & Tech HS in Lincoln on Sept. 30, bringing the total number of health teachers trained in RI to 277 from 98 middle and high schools. Their schools were given copies of Safe Dates and other curriculum materials, donated by LABMF.

Calling all parents!!

Check out <http://www.cdc.gov/CDCTV/BreakTheSilence/index.html>

The CDC has created this short, 4 minute video to introduce parents to the topic of teen dating violence. Check it out. Then go to www.labmf.org and educate yourself so you can discuss this issue with your teens.



"IMAGINE... peace."



MADE Update



Are you a member of MADE? If not, go to www.loveisnotabuse.com/MADE and join today. MADE members work with state legislators and attorneys general to mandate dating violence education. Several states, including NM, Hawaii, Maryland, Oklahoma, Connecticut, Ohio, New York, and Michigan have had bills introduced. Some have passed resolutions or bills encouraging dating violence education and policies in schools, while NM and Hawaii have established study groups this year. Although they have not yet passed a comprehensive law like the Lindsay Ann Burke Act, they are raising the issue and bringing it to the forefront in the hope that a comprehensive law can be passed sometime in the future.



2009 LABMF Poster Contest Winners

From left: 2nd Runner Up: Crystal Solgot, Teacher Jann Gartner, Winner: Kelly Walls and 1st Runner Up: Katherine Lux, Student Assistance Counselor Stephanie McGehearty



Other Awareness Activities



Fall 2009

- **UPCOMING FUNDRAISER!!!** October 17, Macy's "Shop For A Cause" fundraiser; Stephanie Feuti, a senior at Davies Career & Tech HS will sell discount shopping passes to customers of Macy's at the Emerald Square Mall, No. Attleboro, MA. **Let's support Stephanie and LABMF by visiting her table & purchasing a shopping pass.**
- Ann and Chris Burke were featured in an article entitled, "How REDBOOK, Liz Claiborne, and YOU are Putting an End to Dating Violence" in September's REDBOOK. The article focused on the work that MADE members across the nation are doing to end dating violence.

Summer 2009

- Ann was a presenter at a panel discussion on school policy at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundations Start Strong Youth Initiative Conference in San Francisco, hosted by the Family Violence Prevention Fund
- Rhode Island College Dormitory Resident Assistants were trained by LABMF in August. This training was offered through the RIC Women's Center. RIC RA's now have the knowledge base to help students deal with abusive dating relationships and as such, they will have an impact on hundreds of young adults. This training was especially touching for Ann as several of her former students from SK were in the audience.
- Blog Talk Radio interview: "Tough Talk with Tamika" www.blogtalkradio.com/toughtalkwithtamika

NFWL Presentation



In August, Ann and Chris Burke spoke to several hundred state legislators who attended the National Foundation of Women Legislators Annual Conference in New Mexico. During a teen dating violence luncheon sponsored by Liz Claiborne Inc., their message reinforced the need for mandating teen dating violence education in schools across our nation. Many states are grappling with the issue of lack of funding for implementation of such laws, especially given the current economic climate. Ann and Chris informed them about their efforts to seek federal funding for school staff training and the purchase of curriculum.

DID YOU KNOW...



Today's advances in technology have made it easier for a perpetrator of dating abuse or bullying to have 24/7 access to your teen, creating a very controlling environment.

CHECK OUT A NEW WEBSITE:

www.thatnotcool.com was created for teens by the Family Violence Prevention Fund, specifically targeting digital abuse.

277 Heath Teachers from 98 R.I. Middle and High Schools have already been trained! To see a list of schools, visit www.labmf.org/fund/workshops