

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February: National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Jefferson, NC – Since February is typically known as the month of love, with Valentine’s Day falling in the middle of the month, Ashe County Partnership for Children and A Safe Home for Everyone (A.S.H.E.) are focusing on signs of abusive relationships as well as qualities of healthy relationships during National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Here are some facts about abusive dating relationships:

- Dating abuse can include physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse.
- More than one in four teenage girls report verbal abuse.
- One-third of teens are often asked where they were or whom they were with.
- One in four teens are pressured to spend time only with their partner, excluding family and friends.
- One in five teenage girls have been threatened with violence or self-harm during a break-up.
- As technology such as cell phones, texting and social networking sites become more the norm, they may also be used to abuse and control partners.

Healthy relationships, on the other hand, are those in which you trust your partner, treat each other the way you want to be treated and accept one another’s opinions and interests.

- You feel safe, and your partner encourages you to spend time with others.
- You make decisions together and enjoy different activities together.
- Your partner likes you for who you are not just what you may look like.
- Most importantly it is one wherein your partner doesn’t force you to perform sexually or do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. Visit www.loveisrespect.org for more information.



On February 14th and 15th A.S.H.E. visited Ashe County High School, providing handouts and speaking with students. A.S.H.E. Program Director, Robin Falkner, will be available to give informational material and speak with students again on Tuesday, February 22nd during the lunch period.

A.S.H.E. is a domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and awareness program that provides services and support for victims of family violence. The program offers 24-hour crisis assistance, shelter for families in crisis, court advocacy and accompaniment, survivor support groups, educational programs and training, and the Threads of Hope thrift store.

A.S.H.E. is a program of Ashe County Partnership for Children. The Partnership is a non-profit organization that provides programs and services for families and children in Ashe County. They fund or directly run various programs such as: Smart Start programs to benefit children ages birth through five and their families; Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault prevention and awareness services; and Family Support Services offering parenting support and a play room open to the public.

If you are in danger from domestic abuse and would like assistance, please call the A.S.H.E. crisis line at (336) 246-5430. For more information about A.S.H.E. services call (336) 982-8851. For more information about Ashe County Partnership for Children call (336) 982-4588 or visit www.ashechildren.org.

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