



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 5, 2019

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### **The Women's Center Partners with Local Schools, Youth Groups to Address Issue of Teen Dating Violence**

WAUKESHA, Wis. – As part of a national effort to promote healthy dating relationships, February is recognized annually as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. One in three adolescents in the U.S. are victims of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner. Yet, studies also show that three in four parents have never talked to their children about dating violence. In light of these facts, The Women's Center encourages communities to get involved and help raise awareness.

All year long, The Women's Center partners with area schools, youth groups, and other organizations to address this issue that many youth face in our community. As part of our intervention and prevention programming, The Women's Center provides age appropriate and engaging educational sessions that address the topics of healthy and unhealthy boundaries, warning signs of abuse, power and control in relationships, consent, and additional resources within the community. We facilitate discussions that challenge stereotypes and misconceptions about relationships, and our goal is to empower students through education.

This programming extends to the larger community as well. We conduct trainings to teachers, parents, coaches, and other adults who interact with youth. Topics include trauma informed care, recognizing warning signs of an unhealthy relationship, and how to support a teen experiencing dating violence.

Teen Dating Violence is defined as a pattern of abuse or threat of abuse against teenaged dating partners, occurring in forms that include verbal, emotional, physical, sexual and digital. It occurs across diverse groups and cultures.

Studies have found that violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications and effects: putting victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, promiscuous behavior, and further domestic violence.

Ways to get involved:

- Call for help: The Women's Center's 24-Hour Hotline is available at 262.542.3828, or toll-free at 888.542.3828. All calls are confidential and provide immediate assistance.
- Learn More: To bring education and violence prevention initiatives to your community, or to request a presentation in your business or organization, visit: [twcwaukesha.org](http://twcwaukesha.org) or call our Violence Prevention Advocate at 262.547.4600

As the only agency in Waukesha County providing supportive services to those impacted by domestic and sexual violence, child abuse, and trafficking, The Women's Center is proud to be a community leader in advocating for survivors and invites the public to join the conversation.

Executive Director Angela Mancuso stated, "We want everyone to know that help is always available through our 24-Hour Hotline at 262.542.3828. When a survivor makes the difficult decision to reach out for support, they will be welcomed and respected at The Women's Center."

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### **About The Women's Center**

*Founded in 1977, The Women's Center serves adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and trafficking. The Women's Center offers free and comprehensive programming including: emergency shelter & 24-Hour Hotline; legal advocacy; family counseling; domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse counseling; substance abuse and mental health support; transitional living; community education and violence prevention; and employment counseling and life-skills development.*