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**RECEIVED**

APR 14 2011

**PARKS, RECREATION  
& CULTURAL SERVICES**

Mrs. Shani Cleveland  
PO Box 1764  
Racine, WI 52401

Dear Donnie Snow:

My name is Shani Cleveland; I am a Dating Violence Prevention Specialist at the Women's Resource Center of Racine. Domestic violence creates a conspiracy of silence. Victims of domestic violence and their abusers are likely to minimize or deny the violence. Battered men and women are usually too ashamed or frightened to tell anyone about the violence and too financially or emotionally dependant to leave. Domestic violence escalates, growing more severe as time passes. It is my mission to assist the youth in our community give a teen voice to the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.

On Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the SafeStart youth council ( a program of the Women's Resource Center) will be hosting an anti-domestic violence concert in monument square from 6:00- 8:00 pm. We really need the support of our community. We would like to know if you would be willing to sponsor our agency by providing us with the use of the Stage-on- Wheels as a donation. This act of kindness will benefit us greatly as you will be giving the City of Racine's youth a true platform to display their talents, inspire, spark awareness, truth, and hopefully save someone's life.

For further information about this matter or if you would like for me to come and present at a meeting or event, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [ajoyfulnoise4@yahoo.com](mailto:ajoyfulnoise4@yahoo.com). I can also be reached at (262) 989-7638. I look forward to working with you and your staff in the near future.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shani Cleveland  
SafeStart Prevention Specialist

Enclosure

11-6319



THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER OF RACINE

# SafeStart Youth Council



## **Middle and High School Student Volunteers Needed!**

Join other middle and high school students to give a teen's voice to the issues of: Dating violence, abuse, teen pregnancy, and healthy relationships.

Your volunteer work would include: **Projects, speeches, Newsletter writing, activities, and fundraiser events.**

All middle and high school students that are interested in participating must complete a youth council membership form at the Women's Resource center, or feel free to visit me (Mrs. Shani Cleveland) in Rm. 19 from 3:00-6:00 Monday to Friday at the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center.

*A community initiative to protect our young women against violence, abuse, and pregnancy.*

***Be apart of the movement, join us every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 in Rm. 19 at the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center.***

**THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER OF RACINE**

**For more info contact:**

Shani Cleveland, Safestart Prevention Specialist

Women's Resource Center of Racine

(262) 633-3274

## Our meditation

**Domestic Violence creates a conspiracy of silence.**

**Battered women and their abusers are likely to minimize or deny the violence.**

**The battered women is usually to ashamed**

**or frightened to tell anyone about the violence**

**and too financially or emotionally dependant to leave.**

**Domestic violence escalates-growing more severe as time passes.**

**As we stand united**

**It is our mission to make sure no cry goes unheard**

**That no voice remains silent and that no story ever goes untold we will always breed light where there is darkness**

## What is SafeStart?

SafeStart is a program addressing the emergency and long term needs of young women under the age of 18 who are victims of domestic or relationship violence in Racine County. SafeStart was founded in January 1988. SafeStart focuses on youth ages 10-18. Relationship violence and abuse can lead to a life-time of struggles. SafeStart strives to support youth reclaim their lives and create a positive future free of violence. SafeStart is a community-wide initiative to protect our young women against violence, abuse, and pregnancy.

SafeStart provides a number of community services which include;

- Prevention education
- Public awareness
- Staff training

Women's Resource Center of Racine  
Attn: Shani Cleveland  
PO Box 1764  
Racine, WI 53401

On the West end: Love Inc. (262)763-6226

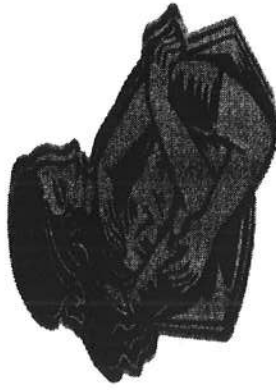
SafeStart, a teen-dating violence prevention program, of the Women's Resource Center.

## Dating Violence Prevention



*SafeStart, a teen dating violence prevention program, of the Women's Resource center of Racine. Aiding victims of Domestic Violence since 1977.*

# What are the warning signs of dating violence?



Dating violence can be controlling behavior, physical, sexual, verbal or emotional. Just because a person is not physically hurting you doesn't mean they aren't abusing you. Violence and abuse have no place in a relationship. Dating violence in any relationship is not about love or caring. It's about one person trying to control the other person.

Try to listen to your inner feelings.

- Trust your instincts if you feel uncomfortable or threatened.
- If you're feeling uncomfortable or afraid in a situation call a friend or family member to come and get you.

**Is the person you are dating abusive?** Answering the following questions may help you decide:

2. Does your partner think their feelings are more important than yours?
3. Is your partner jealous when you want to see your friends, family or be in certain social situations?
4. Does your partner ever try to get you drunk or high?
5. Has your partner ever thrown things, hit, kicked, shoved, strangled or grabbed you?
6. Do you often apologize or make excuses for your partner's behavior, especially when they have treated you badly.
7. Are you afraid to break up with your partner because they have threatened to hurt you or themselves?
8. Has your partner forced you to have sex or perform sexual acts when you don't want to?

*If you have answered YES to any of these questions it may be time for you to check your relationship.*

## HOW CAN I HELP A FRIEND?

1. **Listen.** Give them your undivided attention, let them know that you heard what they have said.
2. **Believe.** Believe what they are telling you.
3. **Do not Judge.** Be careful not to make judgments about what they are telling you.
4. **Try to understand what they are saying.** Devote your efforts to understanding their thoughts and feelings.
5. **Be supportive.** Support their feelings and their choice to share.
6. **Remind them that they are not responsible for the abuse.**