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1 in 3 adolescent girls in the US is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner (*National Council on Crime and Delinquency, 2008*).

One in three of our daughters, nieces, sisters, babysitters, neighbors, classmates, friends – right here in the United States, yes right here! If that statistic doesn't raise your blood pressure, I don't know what will!

We frequently hear the horrific stories of abuse and rape in war torn countries and countries in economic and political turmoil. But we can no longer continue to pretend that our young girls (as well as adult women and elderly women) are immune from these same travesties... ([read more](#))

HAVEN's organic garden project was such a great success last year that we're doing it again this year, with a new focus. The kids' interest increased last year when they were able to pick and taste fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers. The goal of this year's garden is to make it more kid-friendly. The Michigan Young Farmer Coalition will help HAVEN incorporate more ready-to-eat fruits and vegetables.



HAVEN's summer youth program is focusing on increasing their activity in the garden this year to include art projects that will enhance the garden's visual impact within the community. Our garden will restart late March with some preliminary prep work. The formal kick off with the assistance of employees at Comcast will be on April 30. We hope this year to produce at least the 4,200 lbs, or over two tons, as we did last year and increase distribution to HAVEN's non-residential clients.

HAVEN also plans to continue to donate our surplus to other non-profits in the area like Gleaner's Community Food Bank to improve fresh, healthy food access within HAVEN's community and the greater Pontiac area. If you are interested in donating your time to work in the HAVEN Garden please contact our volunteer coordinator Belle Hornung at (248) 334-1284 ext. 659.



Language Matters! The Power of Words to Build Respectful Communities

We've all heard the news about violent language contributing to a culture of violence. But what about the flip side of that, can positive and respectful words build stronger, healthier communities? At HAVEN, we think so.

HAVEN's Prevention Education Program is excited to offer you the opportunity to participate in a conversation about words and their power to transform communities. We will be presenting Language Matters: [The Power of Words to Build Respectful Communities on April 14, 2011. Register now!](#)

HAVEN's premier fundraiser, Promenade of Hope, will be hosted at Art Van Furniture in Royal Oak on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$150. Sponsorships also available. For more information contact Duc Abrahamson at (248) 334-1284 or visit www.promenadeofhope.org.



I am writing on behalf of Teen Advisory Council of HAVEN. I am thrilled to be a member of Teen Advisory Council (TAC) and bring awareness to HAVEN and all of the people it serves. I joined TAC after volunteering for HAVEN. Our family was indirectly affected by domestic violence and I wanted to become more involved.

TAC is a part of HAVEN that is serving my peers. We strive to bring awareness to dating violence by speaking at schools and providing resources to teens and their families on this important issue. TAC focuses on making HAVEN more teen friendly and approachable. We have been working on a website and brochures that will raise awareness about dating issues as well as domestic violence. We, as a cohort, intend to provide awareness, prevention and resources in a safe place to teens that are dealing with or could deal with these issues in the future.

The statistics on teen dating violence have skyrocketed in recent years. One in three teens will be a victim of sexual, emotional, or physical abuse by their dating partner. With this knowledge, TAC strives to reach out to schools, families, and communities to lower these intimidating statistics.

I feel that it is so important to bring awareness to this little discussed but dangerous issue facing so many teens in our community. Awareness is the first critical step in changing the statistics on all forms of abuse. I am honored to be a part of HAVEN and its mission to eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault through treatment and prevention services across Oakland County and surrounding communities. I hope others will also see these challenges and get involved as well.

Alexis Ernst
Andover High School Class of 2012

Website: www.haven-oakland.org | Crisis and Support (877) 922-1274
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