



**Family Violence Prevention Center
of Greene County**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Family Violence Prevention Center takes a Preventative Approach to School Dating Violence

XENIA, Ohio – Aug. 25, 2008 – Violence is part of our world today, but action is being taken by schools and community organizations that have begun to make a difference. The Family Violence Prevention Center (FVPC) offers 3-day comprehensive violence prevention workshops in the Greene County Public Schools to both 7th and 8th grade and high school health classes with great results.

Family Violence Prevention Center education classes reached over 3,700 students in Greene County in 2007 alone. And the numbers prove Greene County students are learning from these intensive three class sessions. High school students who participated in the Pre and Post tests showed a 29% knowledge gain of dating and domestic violence, while middle school students had a 35% gain of knowledge.

The information the Family Violence Prevention Center shares helps these students deal with real life situations from simple topics such as “How to Communicate Effectively” to more intense topics such as “What is Domestic Violence” and “How to Get Help When You are in an Unhealthy Relationship.” Our classes change with our changing society as well. This year, we are introducing “Understanding Cyber Abuse” into our 8th grade Violence Free Relationship classes.

Current funders of this prevention program include: the United Way, Target, Lexis Nexis and the Xenia Community Funding Program. We appreciate our funding partners, because without them, prevention workshops that educate, challenge and provoke change would not be possible. Additional funding has been requested for the continuation of this program.

In 2007, Cherie gave presentations to 60 high school classrooms and 1,352 students and 111 middle school classrooms and 2,378 students. 1,283 of participating high school students were surveyed in six local school districts about the presence of violence in their home. 9% reported that they had viewed

physical violence between the adults in their home and 7% indicated they were sometimes afraid of the violence. 9% of high school youth reported they had already experienced physical dating violence, 21% had been verbally abused by a date and 5% had already experienced sexual violence while dating.

Our services do not stop with education. Students are provided with an opportunity for written comments and for access to Cherie should they require assistance with a personal situation. Many students seek additional help for family members who were never given these educational opportunities when they were in school.

Even though FVPC offers these in-school classes to our junior and senior high school students, we can't stop there. Reducing violence needs to begin at home with parent's reinforcing the positive behaviors children are taught in school.

About FVPC

Family Violence Prevention Center of Greene County has a comprehensive range of services to help protect victims and provide the support services necessary to rebuild their lives through our for prong approach of Prevention, Safe Housing, Intervention and Outreach. Broadly, those services include a 24-hour Hotline, safe housing, children and youth services, community advocacy, counseling, education and training. The mission of the Family Violence Prevention Center of Greene County is to reduce family violence and its impact in Greene County. Our Agency Core Values are: *Respect, Integrity, and Compassion* and our Client-Centered Core Values are: *Independence, Courage and Strength*. Each day the staff at FVPC is dedicated to their vision of *Violence Free Futures*.

FVPC is enhancing the quality of life within the surrounding area and the generous contributions from individuals, businesses, corporations, foundations, government agencies, and local organizations have made it possible for the Center to earn the gratitude and respect of the citizens it serves. We humbly thank you for your contributions, and we encourage your continued support. For more information visit, www.fvpcg.org. or more information on supporting the Family Violence Prevention Center, please contact Nicholas Hubbard, Community Relations Specialist; Family Violence Prevention Center of Greene County at 937.376.8527 ext. 14 or nicholas.hubbard@fvpcgc.org.

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