

# NEWS FROM.....

## The Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### SAVE A CHILD'S LIFE NIGHT

Students took the microphone and had the courage to speak out against drugs at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Courage to Speak Empowering Youth to be Drug Free Family Night, which took place Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at West Rocks Middle School in Norwalk. The auditorium was filled with an audience of their parents and families, teachers, school and government officials, community leaders, law enforcement, clergy and others who gathered to applaud the students' commitment not to use drugs.

A display of drug prevention posters and collages created by students in grades 4-7 during their Courage to Speak Drug Prevention classes in their schools covered the cafeteria. After a complimentary dinner, several students read their essays relating what they had learned and vowing to become anti-drug advocates and mentors for their siblings and friends. In a letter to Courage to Speak Foundation Founder and CEO Ginger Katz, a middle school student said:

*"I am only 13 years old and I have already faced the peer pressure Ian faced to try marijuana or do other things, but I've chosen to say no. Your story makes me choose my friends wisely..."*

Ms. Katz delivered *The Courage to Speak Presentation*, sharing the story of her son Ian's losing battle with addiction when drugs took his life when he was just 20 years old. Her words ask young people to have the courage to speak out and parents to listen, encouraging an honest and open family dialogue about the dangers of drugs.

The evening concluded with a *Sunny's Story* book signing by author Ginger Katz, a compelling story for children, teenagers, parents, grandparents, and teachers narrated through the eyes, ears and mind of Sunny, the family beagle. *Sunny's Story* tells of joyful times and sad times, and how a dog's best friend was needlessly lost.

The Courage to Speak model engages home, school and community to take action and build drug free environments. For more information about the *Courage to Speak Family Night* or to host the event in your community please call 203-831-9700 or email [gkatz@couragetospeak.org](mailto:gkatz@couragetospeak.org).

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