

NEWS FROM.....

The Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Courage to Speak Foundation Receives Funding for Drug Prevention Education in Bridgeport



Fairfield County
Community Foundation

The Courage to Speak Foundation is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$15,000 Donor Advised Grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation for its continued work in the Bridgeport Public Schools. Awarded for the third year, this significant grant was made possible by a local donor who wishes to remain anonymous and receives philanthropic advisory services from the Foundation. This funding will support the implementation of the *Courage to Speak® Drug Prevention Curriculum for Grades 4-7* in many Bridgeport Public Schools.

The grant also supports training for new teachers on the Courage to Speak® Foundation's eight-lesson drug prevention curriculum based on the book *Sunny's Story* written by Ginger Katz, founder of the organization and the Courage to Speak® Presentations. Students will be taught communication skills to help ensure open honest communication with their parents and trusted adults about drugs, alcohol and other critical life issues and concerns.

The following excerpt from a letter was received by the Courage to Speak® Foundation by a 6th grade teacher in Bridgeport, following the Courage to Speak® Presentation:

"I never saw an assembly where our students let alone our 6th graders we so spellbound. They heard and were touched by your story. After lunch we spent an entire afternoon speaking about Ian and you and Larry and your presentation."

6th grade students from Madison School in Bridgeport voted Sunny's Story as "Favorite Book" in their Yearbook.

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations, and organization can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory service and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. The Foundation has awarded over \$123 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information visit www.fccfoundation.org.

The Courage to Speak® Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization devoted to "Saving lives by empowering youth to be drug free and encouraging parents to communicate effectively with their children about the dangers of drugs." The Foundation works in partnership with many sectors of the community to build sustaining support for its school-based drug prevention curricula, for elementary, middle and high school and *Courage to Speak – Courageous Parenting 101®* a free 4-session course designed to help parents keep their children safe from drugs and other risky behavior. Founded in 1996, the agency has reached hundreds of thousands of people

in more than 1,000 presentations nationwide. For more information, please visit www.couragetospeak.org, or call 1-877-431-3295.

About The Courage to Speak® Foundation:

*The Courage To Speak Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit organization based in Norwalk, CT, whose mission is "to save lives by empowering youth to be drug free through fostering education and open communication about the dangers of drug and alcohol use." Ginger Katz founded the organization in 1996, just months after her 20 year old son Ian James Eaccarino died of an accidental drug overdose. She and her husband Larry Katz pledged that they would do all they could to help prevent such a tragedy from befalling another family. Since then, Ms. Katz has given nearly 1000 presentations reaching hundreds of thousands of individuals - young people and the adults who care about them. The Courage To Speak Foundation develops drug prevention curriculum for elementary, middle and high school students as well as parents through Courage to Speak - Courageous Parenting 101®. Ms. Katz also has authored a new book called Sunny's Story. A book for children of all ages; parents, grandparents, teachers, and others. www.couragetospeak.com
www.sunnysstory.com*

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