

The Courage to Speak® Foundation, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Courage to Speak Foundation Hosts Sixth Annual Family Night

Students Speak Out!

The **6th Annual Courage To Speak® Empowering Youth to Be Drug-Free Family Night** will take place on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 5:30 p.m., at West Rocks Middle School, 81 West Norwalk Road, in Norwalk (*snow date: March 18*). All are invited to the event, which will bring local families, educators, and community leaders together to affirm their commitment to keeping kids drug-free.

Proceeds from the event benefit The Courage to Speak® Foundation programs and curricula to educate children and their parents about the dangers of drug and alcohol use. The evening features elementary and middle school students speaking about their drug prevention message, as well as a display of drug prevention posters and collages created by Norwalk students during classes they’ve taken as part of the Courage To Speak Drug Prevention Curriculum. The evening also includes dinner and a presentation for parents and students by Ginger Katz, Founder and CEO of the Courage to Speak® Foundation.

This year’s event also features **Operation Medicine Drop**, a new drug disposal program partnership between the Foundation and the Norwalk Police Department designed to help keep unused medications out of the wrong hands. Attendees are encouraged to bring any old, unused, or out-of-date prescriptions or over-the-counter medications they find in their medicine cabinets to the event. The controlled substances that are collected will then be disposed of in a safe and non-hazardous manner.

“Many young persons’ first experience with drugs comes from drugs found in the family medicine cabinet,” explains Norwalk Chief of Police Harry Rilling. “We sometimes lose sight of that fact and do not take recommended precautions to ensure these drugs are not accessible to the other members of our family and friends. Not only can these drugs lead to abuse of and addiction to other drugs, their consumption can be deadly. “Please help us to help you make your home as safe an environment as possible.”

In addition to Chief Rilling, other Family Night attendees will include over 15 students speakers, Norwalk Mayor Richard Moccia and Norwalk Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Tony Daddona. State of Connecticut General Assembly House Minority Leader, Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr. will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Participants will also include school principals and prevention and treatment professionals, teachers, business and community leaders, representatives of state and local government, and members of the Courage to Speak Foundation Board of Directors.

“Bringing students and parents together to talk openly and honestly about the dangers of drugs is the most important goal of Family Night,” stated Ms. Katz. “By helping our students become outstanding anti-drug advocates and mentors for their friends and younger siblings, we hope to eradicate the problem of drug and alcohol use among young people in the greater Norwalk area and beyond.”

The 6th Annual Courage To Speak® Empowering Youth to Be Drug-Free Family Night is sponsored by The Affinion Group and Pepperidge Farm, Inc. Other sponsors include Cablevision, Connecticut Business Systems, Continental Manor Catering, gWay Marketing Gymnasium, Hilton Garden Inn, JetBlue Airways, MBI, Inc., Nestle, Norwalk Pizza & Pasta, Patriot National Bank, Sharp Performance USA, Silvermine Golf Club, Smart Cycles, Stew Leonard’s, The Hour Newspapers, Walmart (CT Ave.), Walmart (Main Ave.), Webster Bank, WSTC 1400 / WNLK 1350. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, log on to www.couragetospeak.org.

For more information about the event, visit www.couragetospeak.org, or call 1-877-431-3295.

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