

# NEWS FROM....*The Courage to Speak*<sup>®</sup> Foundation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: Ginger Katz**  
**PHONE: 1-203- 831-9700**

## **The Courage to Speak Empowering Youth to be Drug Free Family Night and Media Event** **Students Speak Out!**

The **8th Annual Courage To Speak Empowering Youth to Be Drug Free Family Night** will take place on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 5:15 p.m., at West Rocks Middle School, 81 West Rocks Road, in Norwalk (*snow date: March 21*). All are invited to the event, which will bring students, parents, educators, school and government officials, business and community leaders together to affirm their commitment to keep our children safe from drugs and other risky behaviors. A complimentary dinner will be served.

This exciting media event will spotlight the outstanding work and words of students who participate in the Courage to Speak Foundation's programs/curricula in their schools taught by the health class teachers. Norwalk's Mayor Richard Moccia, Chief of Police Harry Rilling and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Marks will introduce the students who take the microphone and speak out with their vows not to use drugs. State Representative Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr. will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

On display will be the remarkable artwork created by the students during their drug prevention classes with their teachers. Highlights of the event include the students' readings of their drug prevention messages and the *Courage to Speak*<sup>®</sup> *Presentation* for parents and students by Ginger Katz, CEO & Founder of the Courage to Speak<sup>®</sup> Foundation. The evening includes presentation of The Courage to Speak<sup>®</sup> Community Leadership Awards and the Courage to Speak Volunteer Awards.

"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 CT and across the country.

Our title sponsor is the Affinion Group. Other sponsors to date include our gold sponsors: Virgin Atlantic Airways, the Blattman Family, Cablevision, First Niagra Bank and gWay Marketing Gymnasium. Our silver sponsors: Xerox, Webster Bank, TD Bank, Smart Cycles, Norwalk Pizza and Pasta, Continental Manor Catering and Silvermine Golf Club; and friends of the event: Kaiser-Battistone, J.F. Buchta Electric Company, Paul Lenoci, Strada18, B.J. Ryan's, Via Sforza Trattoria, O'Neill's Pub, Outback Steakhouse, Bob's Discount Furniture, Jimmy's Mediterranean Deli and Costco.

For more information about the event, to become a sponsor and volunteer, visit [www.couragetospeak.org](http://www.couragetospeak.org) call 1-203-831-9700, email Ginger Katz at [gkatz@couragetospeak.org](mailto:gkatz@couragetospeak.org)

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#### **About The Courage to Speak<sup>®</sup> Foundation:**

The Courage To Speak<sup>®</sup> Foundation, Inc. exists to save lives by empowering youth to be drug free through fostering education and open communication about the dangers of alcohol and other drug use. Ginger Katz founded the nonprofit 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 pledged to do everything in their power to help prevent such a tragedy from happening to another family. The Courage To Speak Foundation develops drug prevention curriculum for elementary (based on *Sunny's Story*), middle and high school students as well as for parents through *Courage to Speak - Courageous Parenting 101*. Ms. Katz has given nearly 1,000 presentations to over a million young people and the adults who care about them. Please visit [www.couragetospeak.org](http://www.couragetospeak.org) <<http://www.couragetospeak.org>>.