

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 6, 2004
CONTACT: STEVE O'CONNELL
(978) 745-6610, EXT. 108

CONNECTICUT MOTHER WHO LOST SON TO DRUG OVERDOSE
TO ADDRESS LYNN SCHOOL CHILDREN, PARENTS

Ginger Katz lost her son Ian to a drug overdose in 1996.

Since 1997, she and her husband Larry have traveled the nation, and through their Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc., have made it their mission to empower young people to say no to drugs, and encourage parents to address the problem of substance abuse by communicating the dangers of drugs with their children.

"We are committed to the promise of promoting a drug-free environment for young people, and preventing what happened to Ian from ever happening to another child," said Ms. Katz, whose work has been featured in scores of publications across the country, including the New York Times, Hartford Courant, and on all of the major television networks.

Essex District Attorney Jonathan W. Blodgett, Lynn Police, the Lynn School Department, and the Daily Item of Lynn are sponsoring Ms. Katz' appearances at several Lynn schools next week, in hopes of educating children and their parents around the issue of substance abuse, and saving young lives.

Ms. Katz will speak to children and educators at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 8, at the Marshall Middle School. At 1 p.m. that same day she will speak to students and educators at the Breed Middle School, and at 6:30 that evening, she will address parents at the Breed Middle School.

On Tuesday, November 9, at 9 a.m., she will speak to students and educators at the Pickering Middle School.

Topics from The Courage to Speak presentation will include addiction and its impact on the family, how drugs, alcohol, guns and violence connect, the myth that some children are not "at risk," and the sometimes fatal "code of silence" when someone is in trouble. The presentation will also focus on why it's so critical to learn about the realities of drug and alcohol abuse, and how parents, youth and the community can work together to save lives.

Parents, community members and the media are encouraged to attend these presentations. Ms. Katz may be reached at 1-877-431-3295. The Courage to Speak website may be accessed at www.couragetospeak.org.