

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Courage to Speak Charity Basketball Tournament

Featuring Boxing Sensation Travis Simms and Martial Arts Master Calasanaz

Comes to Norwalk High School on Friday, April 2

(Norwalk, CT, March 26, 2004). . . Enjoy basketball played by the area's best all-star high school girls, a "Battle of the Sexes" matchup, and plenty of foul shooting contests for kids of all ages at the Courage To Speak Charity Basketball Tournament taking place 6 p.m. on Friday, April 2 at Norwalk High School.

"Tremendous" Travis Simms, the Junior WBA Super Welterweight Champion of the World, will serve as a celebrity coach for this annual fundraiser to benefit the Courage to Speak Foundation. The Norwalk native, who took the national sports world by storm with his title fight win over reigning champ Alejandro "Terra" Garcia on HBO Pay Per View last December, currently appears in a Cablevision public service announcement (PSA) promoting the Tournament.

Also appearing is Calasanaz. A Martial Arts Master who has trained young and old in "the Way of the Serene Warrior" for twenty years, Calasanaz is an internationally known, Norwalk-based fitness expert. He will be joined on April 2 by News 12 Connecticut personality David Smith, who will emcee the charity event.

The event features an all-star high school girls basketball tournament between the Fairfield County Interscholastic Conference Team and the Southwest Conference. Audience members of all ages will be able to participate in foul shooting contests for prizes that include two Virgin Atlantic Airways tickets to London, Concord Industries voyager bag and golf bag, Dooney & Bourke leather hand bags, membership to the Norwalk YMCA, personal training from Calasanaz Karate, Kung Fu and Kick Boxing and many more.

Once again, the half time highlight of the Tournament will be a "Battle of the Sexes" match between the Hot Shots, Connecticut's Senior Women's Olympic Team, and male community leaders over the age of 50. Participants on the men's team include Norwalk Mayor Alex Knopp, Norwalk Police Chief Harry Rilling, Superintendent, Sal Corda, State Senator Bob Genuario, Patriot Bank President Charlie Howell, Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce President Ed Musante, Carver Center CEO Rick Fuller, Jim Tucciarone of Small Business Management Association, and Steve Rugh of WSTC-WNLK.

"I think it's a great to host an event that brings families together for a special evening and cause," explains Mr. Simms of his decision to participate. "After all, it's all about saving our children and securing a future for the community."

"With the support of Travis Simms, Calasanz, and so many local individuals and businesses such as Gold--Patriot National Bank, Calasanz Karate, Kung Fu and Kick Boxing, Pepperidge Farms, Gateway Graphics, The Hour, WNLK - WSTC Radio, Norwalk YMCA, Calasanz Karate, Kung Fu and Kick Boxing, Virgin Atlantic Airways, SoBe Beverage Company, Concord Industries, Cablevision, Small Business Management Association, Toni Boucher, H. L. Jay Associates, Wild Oats Market and Silver Sponsors such as Dooney & Bourke, Webster Bank, Benefit Planning Services LLC, Lift Touch, Inc., Pack Timco, Inc., Schimenti Construction, Inc., Mutual Security Credit Union, Emerson Industries, Inc., Anonymous, Continental Manor, Cornerstone Bank, LH Gault & Sons, Inc., Small Business Management, Inc. "The 2004 Courage to Speak Basketball Tournament promises to be our most successful event yet," states Ginger Katz, President and Founder of the Courage to Speak Foundation and a member of the Hot Shots basketball team. "Saving lives by inspiring youth to be drug free is a mission that the Foundation needs community support to accomplish and we are so grateful for the support shown through this event."

For more information about the Courage to Speak Basketball Tournament, call 1-877-431-3295.

The Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc. - based in Norwalk, Connecticut - is dedicated to fulfilling its mission of "saving lives by inspiring youth to be drug free." The organization was founded in 1997, shortly after Ginger and Larry Katz lost their son, Ian, to a heroin overdose. Since then, The Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc. has been dedicated to fulfilling a promise Ginger made to Ian: she promised to do everything in her power to prevent this tragedy from happening to another family.