



Quarterly Combat



VOLUME 2

WINTER EDITION 2014



LOOK WHO IS MAKING A STATEMENT...

STATEMENT offers two programs that empower youth to recognize their value and potential. These seven-week educational courses are taught in a comfortable and fun environment amongst peers.

REDFLAG & CONTROL will educate our youth to identify and prevent unhealthy relationships.

These courses develop leaders within our community. These leaders will bring about change in the lives of others while accepting nothing less than healthy relationships within their own lives.

- R** **RESPECT** - Respect yourself!
- E** **EXPECT DISRESPECT** - Disrespect will happen in your life.
- D** **DECIDE** - What you are going to do when you receive disrespect?
- F** **FUTURE** - What will your future look like if you accept the disrespect?
- L** **LEAD** - Lead, don't be led!
- A** **AUTHENTIC** - In a world where you can be anything.... Be YOURSELF!
- G** **GIFT** - Your life is a gift, your time is a gift, Who are you giving your gifts to?

- C** **CONTROL** - Who is in control of your life?
- O** **OVERCOME** - Overcome your circumstances.
- N** **NEVER** - There is never an excuse for abuse!
- T** **TIME** - It's time to stand up!
- R** **RESPECT** - Respect yourself!
- O** **OUTLINE** - Outline your life.... the choices you make today effect your tomorrow.
- L** **LEAD** - Lead, don't be led!



Hi let me introduce myself, I'm Desiree Lancaster. As Mrs. Mead 2013 and Mrs. Spokane County 2014, I am honored to spread awareness regarding dating abuse and domestic

violence as my platform.

I am grateful to say that I have been happily married since 2011. I am truly blessed to have such a supportive loving husband who has selflessly taken on my four beautiful daughters who desperately needed to heal from abuse and learn what a TRUE daddy is and how a real man treats his wife. Together we are blessed with seven children and I thank God everyday for giving me a second chance in life, love, and marriage! This however was not how my life started. My first marriage was extremely abusive. I was a young naive girl who in essence was the all "American Girl". I viewed

myself as being "normal". I had great friends, and a wonderful family life... one that all little girl's want and dream about. However, I was never taught the Red Flags of abuse. I wasn't taught that it was not ok for boys to yell, belittle, beat down and treat me with no respect. My relationship with my first husband started out as dating abuse and quickly turned into domestic violence when I accepted the abuse and married my abuser! This was a dark and scary time in my life... I was beaten down both physically and emotionally for 8 years. I wish when I was in school I had the opportunity to take classes and learn the Red Flags of abuse; I wouldn't have had to experience 8 years of emotional and physical abuse.

I can see now how important Statement is in helping young girls today to see those red flags of dating abuse. I am blessed to have Statement in my life today not just for the help it has given me to empower my own voice and mission, but also to help prepare my girls to not be victims of abuse.



My name is Mike Gonzalez. My sister Christine passed away July 4th 2009 from an apparent suicide from a drug overdose. My sister was a beautiful, vivacious and

outgoing person. She had a way about her that made everyone comfortable. She always made everyone feel as if they were special and they mattered. I think she had a certain amount of vulnerability that allowed some "not so nice" men into her life.

Despite her good looks, Christine had a hard exterior that masked some major insecurities. She was someone who needed approval and she felt that she got that approval from men. I think sometimes her self-worth was based on what praise

her boyfriends could give her, or how many guys she could date. It always seemed as if she gravitated towards the cute, self-centered boys who were more concerned about what they could get from the relationship... rather than what they could give to it.

My sister ran into what she thought was the love of her life. They got married, had two kids and bought a house together. The relationship was one sided, abusive and scary. Without getting into all the details of the relationship... I wish there was somewhere she could have turned when she was in High School. If a program like Statement was there for her, I think she would be with us today. Statement teaches where self worth comes from. It comes from within, not from other people.

I encourage everyone to get involved before a loved one is gone.

In loving memory of Christine Lorraine Gonzalez May 1, 1971 - July 4, 2009



LOVE IS IN THE AIR... OR IS IT?

Dating abuse is such on the rise that Congress has declared February Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Love is in the air.... Or is it? Many of us view February as a month of love, romance, chocolate and flowers. Often youth view love as a "feeling"; a feeling like nothing could go wrong...until it does. Love is a behavior not a feeling. We have all heard the saying "Actions speak louder than words." Love expresses genuine actions through patience, kindness and gentleness. Loving relationships work to build one another up in their dreams and aspirations... wanting the best for the other.

Although February is known as the month of "Love", many youth are experiencing a very different type of relationship. Instead of love, romance, and chocolates; control, jealousy, isolation, fear and abuse is their story. Dating abuse is far from true love. A relationship full of control is a relationship out of control.

• 1 in 3 teen dating relationships experience physical aggression including

hitting, punching, kicking, slapping.

• 40% of teenage girls know someone their age that have been hit or beaten by their boyfriend.

• 80% of all girls who have been physically abused in their relationship continue to date their abuser. The repercussions of teen dating violence are impossible to ignore - the issue affects not just youth but their families, schools and communities as well. Teen Dating Violence Statement raises awareness, highlights the need to educate our youth about healthy relationships, and encourages leadership and character development. Statement provides communities with opportunities to work together to prevent this devastating cycle of abuse. Congress has dedicated the entire month of February to teen dating violence awareness and prevention. We are calling upon government representatives and agencies, public officials, advocates, service providers, schools, youth groups, parents and youth to take part in programs and

activities that promote awareness and prevention of teen dating violence. Statement is honored to be part of this movement.

COMMUNITY CORNER...

JOIN STATEMENT AT



WEDNESDAY MARCH 19, 2014
6:00pm - 9:00pm

Help combat dating abuse while enjoying your favorite pizza! 25% of the proceeds go directly to the cause... Mention that Statement sent you and make a difference for our youth!

We appreciate your support!

UPCOMING CLASSES/EVENTS:

- Feb.: Young Lives/I Hope - Health and Safety Fair
- Feb./Mar.: Saint George's School
- Feb./Mar.: Boys & Girls Club
- April: Girl Power Camp Kalispel Tribe
- April/May: Crossover
- For a specialized class please call to enroll.

Romans 12:2

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO OUR SUPPORTERS

A special thanks to our Statement sponsors, supporters and volunteers.

Please help us continue our mission to combat dating abuse by becoming a monthly sponsor. Your contribution of \$35.00 per month will allow one student to participate in the REDFLAG or CONTROL program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jenny Moeller, Kyle Jordan, Brad Moeller, Mike Gonzales, Sadie Prosser, Ophelia Araujo, Michelle DeSpain, Rebecca Templeton, Steve Anderson, Klaire Powers



Jeff & Jennifer Moeller

