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. **Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center to host annual White Ribbon Breakfast**

NEWBURYPORT

The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center's fourth annual White Ribbon Breakfast will take place on Tuesday, March 22 at the Ipswich Country Club. The event is held to raise funds for the Crisis Center's Youth Empowerment Services (YES) programs that are implemented in local area schools.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the program will be from 8-9:15 a.m.

This year commemorates the 26th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre — the event that catalyzed the international White Ribbon Campaign. The breakfast is the Crisis Center's way of engaging men and boys in this international campaign to end violence against women and girls.

“Three years ago when we added bystander education to our programming, we renewed our commitment to youth and our community to prevent future family violence by offering these critically important education programs for boys and girls” says Suzanne Dubus, CEO of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. “During the 2014-15 school year we provided 700 boys and girls, and 80 faculty members bystander education through leadership training, orientation sessions, and grade specific assemblies.

“This year, we have already worked intensively with 1,500 high school students and 200 faculty from three of our partner schools, Newburyport, Amesbury, and Triton.”

This year marks the third year that the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center has partnered with the Center for Sport in Society, at Northeastern University to offer its nationally recognized bystander program, Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP). This program serves boys and girls age 13-18, through a peer leadership program that teaches students how standing up to peers engaging in abusive behaviors can impact social change.

The program is being offered to local area students in the Amesbury, Newburyport and Triton Regional High Schools as a part of the YES program, which uses evidence-based and nationally recognized approaches to educate and engage girls and boys in breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

“It is important for everyone of all ages to understand the proper response to a violent or potentially violent situation. The key is to understand that doing nothing is not an option; it just makes you part of the problem. This problem is not going away, and looking away is not the answer,” White Ribbon Chair Dick Bazirgan said.

This year's program will feature a presentation from our MVP-trained students — providing an opportunity for breakfast attendee's to hear first-hand from the student peer leaders regarding what they have learned and how this program has impacted their school community, their personal relationships and the community at large.

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