



update

Deana's Educational Theater *Acting to prevent violence*

Girl Bullying Play Debuts at Lynnfield Middle School

Vol. 3, Issue 1
Summer, 2007

Ask any parent, teacher or student if girls can be bullies and you get a resounding yes! On May 22, 2007 Deana's Educational Theater's newly adapted version of Doin' the Right Thing entitled ***Girl Chat*** debuted to an all-female audience at Lynnfield Middle School.

The play shows how damaging "relational" or emotional violence can be and provides a focal point for serious discussion and action. Susan Becker, DET's Director of Educational Theater and Training, said the new version of DRT provides girls with the opportunity to see the harm caused by bullying, reflect on what it means to the individual and school culture and practice some ways respond if it is happening.

Linda Altieri, Chair of the Lynnfield Cultural Council and Sponsor of the program says:

"As a parent of teens and someone who has seen many programs in the schools, I was really impressed with the effectiveness of the DET Girls Bullying Workshop. The actors were incredible and easy to approach during the dynamic question and answer discussion. These girls were fully engaged during the entire hour --every hand went up as they embraced the chance to talk frankly with the all female actor troupe who understood what they were going through. I wish we could bring this very powerful program to all girls across the state, as it is so important to provide a foundation of understanding about conflict to kids at this age group so they can start to resolve issues themselves.

We are currently seeking grant funding and private donations to pilot the play and conduct focus groups with teachers and students in urban, semi-urban and suburban communities.



From left: Stacy Fisher, Kortney Adams and Meaghan Willis perform in the pilot of new girl bullying play.

Deana's Fund Name Change

After careful review and deliberation, the Deana's Fund Board of Directors voted to change the organization's name to ***Deana's Educational Theater: Acting to Prevent Violence*** to better describe the mission and work of the organization. Deana's family approved the name change prior to the vote, The new logo was designed by graphic designer Mary Hart.

The DET website was redesigned by Hal Marshall and will be undergoing updates over the next several months. All web traffic from the old website address is directed to the new site.

The new website address is:

www.deanaseducationaltheater.org

New Comprehensive Bullying Prevention DVD Released



The DET Doing the Right Thing Bullying Prevention DVD kit launched in February 2007. A group of 77 school psychologists working in the Boston Public Schools were the first to preview the DVD.

The debut was a huge success with 95% of the psychologists rating the DVD and training as good to excellent. The 28-minute DVD was developed in collaboration with administrators, staff and students at Seacoast Academy in Revere, MA and Winthrop High School. The DVD comes with a seven-session discussion and activity guide.

The kit is designed to be a comprehensive one-stop shop to design and develop bullying prevention programs and policies for middle and high schools.



Seacoast Academy students at DRT Workshop

The kit was developed using donations from generous DET supporters, and grants from The Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Cummings Property Foundation and general support from the TJX Companies Foundation. Supporters of DET can purchase the kit for their local schools for a discounted rate.

From Executive Director Sher Quaday's



When I began my position at Deana's Fund nearly ten years ago, I couldn't have dreamed that we would be so involved in working with the military. In my mind, violence prevention and military were, well.. a bit of an oxymoron.

Although we've been working closely with the Military for the past few years, attending the week long AF Symposium in March, (where "The Yellow Dress was performed) was an eye opening experience. We saw presentations from leaders in academia, the arts, prevention and the law — all were on hand to help shape the new Air Force initiative. It was the single best professional training I have attended in my 15 years in violence prevention work. Every person we met — from Claudia Bayliff, the Chief of the Air Force Sexual Assault and Response team to the Senior Airmen representing young people in the military — was focused on solving the complicated and perplexing issues involved in relationship violence.

The Air Force's sexual assault prevention initiative is a groundbreaking effort that bears watching closely as a model for high school and college campus sexual assault and dating violence prevention education. This initiative (all branches of the military have a directive from the Department of Defense to address sexual assault) is attempting no less than a complete culture shift. As most people in prevention agree — changing cultural norms through educational intervention is difficult bordering on impossible. Yet, as we produced *The Yellow Dress* and *Remote Control* at Air Force installations across the country over the past few years — we were pleasantly surprised by the level of knowledge evident in the audience. We found that we needed to gear up the post-performance discussion to accommodate a higher level of knowledge than that which is typical of College audiences. I think it is testimony to the Air Forces' successful educational efforts..

We are honored and excited to be part of the Air Force sexual assault prevention effort. I think that Deana would be pleased with being able to help keep those who serve our country safe from this form of costly friendly fire.

Sher Quaday, M.Ed.

Yellow Dress and Remote Control Military

Both The Yellow Dress and Remote Control have been well received by military sponsors in their efforts to assure the safety and well being of all troops. The Department of Defense views sexual assault and domestic violence prevention as a key factor in improving overall readiness and responsiveness of all units.

The following e-mail was received from one military sponsor:

Good morning, Sher,

The actors, Amie, Harry and Dan were absolutely wonderful! I was greatly impressed with their ability to get the message through in a real-to-life acting format. I would like to have them fitted with uniforms and provide more props for their next performance here at MacDill. I plan on spreading the word to other Chiefs throughout the Air Force.

Thanks again,

Dr. Zimmerman
Chief, SAPR

McDill Air Force Base, Florida



Deana's Educational Theater Goes Blue with the Air Force

In March, The Yellow Dress was presented at the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Risk Reduction Symposium. Sher Quaday, Executive Director and Susan Becker, Director of Programs and Training, joined 24 other National Experts as panelists at the symposium.



Susan Becker leading training session

Based on evaluations and feedback, DET was among a select group of participants invited to return to the Air Force World-wide Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) training in San Antonio Texas on June 28, 2007. Actors Harry LaCoste, Ben Lambert and Meaghan Willis performed Remote Control — Military Version and Susan Becker led discussion and represent DET. More than 300 Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and other personnel will attend the training.

Other branches of the military are also becoming more aware of the unique educational approach of using theater and interactive discussion to train troops to become advocates for safe and healthy relationships. The Yellow Dress and/or Remote Control have been performed for the Marine Corps, Army and Navy.

Your continued support for Deana's Educational Theater helps us to continue to contribute to the health and safety of the young men and women

who serve our country.

Limited Production Rights help us reach over 92,000 in 2006/2007 school year

According to Christine Shaw, DET Administrative Director, more than 92,000 students, school staff and administrators, college students and military personnel in diverse settings participated in performances and discussions. Almost 50 performances were a result of Limited Production Rights (LPR) where sponsors purchase rights to produce the plays. The LPR is negotiated with sponsors — usually domestic violence prevention agencies or schools who have access to actors, artistic directors and a commitment to using theater to prevent violence. This option is offered to out-of-area communities who do not have the resources to spend on actor travel and full performance costs. About 12,000 people have seen our programs through LPR agreements in communities throughout the U.S. and Africa.



Christine Shaw

President's Message

In 2006 your support helped us reach over 100,000 students and young adults in college and in the military. It's truly amazing to watch how kids and adults alike connect with the messages of the plays and carry it with them through the years.

Just this last week we received an inquiry from the Public Relations Director at the Hattiesburg Mississippi Police Department. She saw *The Yellow Dress* about eight years ago as a high school student. She now wants to bring the performance to her community.

Maureen Sherback from Easton Jr. High School reported that the *Remote Control* performance at her school was one of the best presentations she's seen that actively involved participants in discussion. The play has been performed in Easton for the past five years.

As schools continually face budget deficits and shortfalls, we are working to expand our donor base and grant funding. I hope you will consider making a donation now to keep this important work going or contacting your school officials to help bring our programs to your community.

Thanks so much for your support!

Jim

Det. Lt. James Pierce,
President, Board of Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS...

We bid a sad goodbye to Cyndi Cadigan and David Brisbois in 2006. Cyndi's recent move to a western suburb, transportation issues and other commitments have made it difficult to attend board meetings. David's work and family commitments are growing — David, Kim & Tober Brisbois greeted newest family member Opal this year. We are excited that Lindsey Shroyer has joined the Board of Directors. Lindsey (Baxter) was on the staff of Deana's Fund until October 2005 and was an invaluable staff member who helped expand our work to the military and colleges nationwide. Lindsey begins a new position as Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coordinator at Endicott College in August.

Officers for 2007 are: President: Det. Lt. James Pierce Vice President: Nora Mann, Secretary: Lindsey Shroyer
Treasurer: Steve Wolff General Members are: Patrick Lucy, Nancy Isaac, Wendy Matusovich, Lindsey Shroyer
Rep. Peter Koutoujan, Judy Warner and Sher Quaday,

NOTES

- **Remote Control College Version** launched to great reviews at a Harvard Injury Control and Prevention Seminar at the Harvard School of Public Health in March 2007. The play will be marketed to College audiences in fall 2007.



- **Wilmington Public Schools** worked with Deana's Educational Theater to bring a comprehensive bullying prevention program to grades k-6. School children in grades 1-6 from every public school saw **All Starz or Doin' the Right Thing!** School staff and parents received training in basic bullying prevention techniques. **Joanne Benton, the new Supt. of Schools for Wilmington** says "The plays and the staff trainings were right on target — we plan on continuing the important work in the future."
- Cast members — Jay Lee, Tim Hoover and Meaghan Willis traveled to **Okinawa and Nagasaki Japan** to present Remote Control to airman and Doing the Right Thing! bullying prevention program for elementary schools on the base.
- We will collaborate on grant applications with Dr. Elizabeth Englander Director of the **Massachusetts Aggression Research Center (MARC)** to bring our bullying prevention programs to communities throughout Massachusetts. Dr. Englander & MARC provide professional training and classroom curriculum work to prevent bullying.

