



THIS FEBRUARY, START TALKING ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS!

LOVE
HAS MANY
DEFINITIONS
BUT ABUSE
ISN'T ONE
OF THEM.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness month. Every day we focus on the prevention of domestic violence but how often do we realize it happens amongst our teenagers too?

What is relationship abuse?

Dating violence or relationship abuse is a pattern of violent behavior that someone uses against a girlfriend or boyfriend. Abuse can cause injury and even death, but it doesn't have to be physical. It can take many forms, including threats, emotional abuse, insults, isolation from friends and family, name-calling and controlling what someone wears or with whom they socialize. It can also include sexual abuse. It can happen to anyone, at any age, no matter what their race, religion, sexual orientation, level of education or economic background.

Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience some form of dating violence. 33% of adolescents is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner

It is important to discuss this topic with our sons and daughters so they know it is NOT ok. Breakthecycle.org has a lot of great information on how to start this conversation with your child. Girls between 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence, nearly triple the national average.

Only 1 out of every 3 girl in a violent relationship will tell someone about the abuse.

81% of parents think that teen dating violence is NOT an issue, and they couldn't be more wrong.

On February 14th and 29th Breakthecycle is having a contest encouraging people not to just talk about it, but #chalkaboutit .

The Carpentersville Police Department would like to also challenge all of our residents to #chalkaboutit . Chalk a sidewalk by your house or your driveway about what love means to you and share your photos with us. Email the photos to jpilarski@cville.org or message them to our facebook page and you will be entered into a contest to win a Carpentersville PD care package. Photos will then be posted on our Facebook and twitter pages to spread the word to #breakthecycle . Winner will be drawn the first week of March and it is the winner's responsibility to pick up the prize at the Carpentersville Police Department after notification.

For more information and resources about dating violence visit www.breakthecycle.org and www.loveisrespect.org.