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Missoula County

Media Release

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Love is Respect Art Show to Honor Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

In honor of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Missoula City-County Relationship Violence Services is partnering with the Zootown Arts Community Center in hosting a group art exhibition to educate the community about teen dating violence, healthy relationships and consent. One in three adolescents in the United States is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of youth violence. In response, community groups are looking to raise awareness of the prevalence of teen dating violence in the Missoula community.

“It’s so important that we teach our youth about healthy relationships skills and consent, and we’re trying to get that message out in new and creative ways,” Healthy Relationships Project Coordinator, Kelly McGuire said.

The Healthy Relationships Project provides healthy relationships and consent education to middle and high school students. Last year, they provided workshops for more than 2,000 students in Missoula County and Mineral County.

The impact of dating violence extends beyond the immediate experience of the teen, impacting the entire community. Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications by putting victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide and adult re-victimization.

For more information about healthy relationships, along with interactive quizzes and access to peer counseling, visit www.loveisrespect.org.

Who: Missoula City-County Relationship Violence Services and Zootown Arts Community Center

What: [Love is Respect Art Show](#)

When: Feb. 12, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Zootown Arts Community Center Mini Gallery, located at 235 N 1st W, Missoula

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Healthy relationships education is available to schools in Missoula County and Mineral County. We provide lessons for grades 6-12, focused on topics like how to know if your relationship is unhealthy or healthy, red flags for abusive behavior, boundaries, consent, and respectful dating behavior.

Our educators can guest-teach or co-teach classes, depending on teacher preference. Free curricula is available for teachers.