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Everyone Deserves Healthy Relationships
Safe Dates program offered May 21st

Eau Claire, WI, May 20th, 2016- Relationships can be tricky—how do you know if you are in a healthy one? To help teens answer that question, community partners are offering a dating violence prevention program to area teens. The training will be facilitated by Diverse & Resilient, a statewide organization promoting healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) people in Wisconsin. **All high school age teens are invited to attend the Safe Dates program on May 21st at the L.E. Phillips Public Library, from 11:00am – 4:00pm. There is no cost to attend.**

It can be difficult for any person experiencing partner abuse to recognize unhealthy relationships as abusive. LGBT people face the same barriers in recognizing partner abuse but may face unique challenges reaching out for support, leaving abusive relationships, and getting services. Partner abuse itself is present in all communities. According to the 2013 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **30% of lesbian, gay or bisexual high schoolers had been physically hurt by their dating partner, compared to 7% of their straight classmates.** Protective family presence may be absent for some LGBT youth due to cultural stigma and disapproval. This isolation can make leaving unhealthy and/or abusive relationships more difficult socially, emotionally, and financially. Safe Date works to equip all teens with the skills and resources to identify unhealthy relationships and develop positive ones.

Safe Dates program is an evidence-based curriculum shown to reduce teen dating violence. This curriculum will continue to be used in Eau Claire by community partners through the *Amped Health* initiative. “We are very excited to offer Safe Dates this fall. It’s important to have healthy relationships throughout the life span, so working with teens early on is crucial,” says Abby Hinz, Public Health Nurse at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

To learn more about the Safe Dates May 21st event, please contact Q2 at q2.group.ec@gmail.com, or call Youth Services at 715-839-5007. Join us to support healthy relationships for all of our youth in Eau Claire.



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