



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fran's Story: How a community came together to support healthy relationships
October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Eau Claire, WI –October 24th, 2017– Intimate partner violence is not a private issue. It's everybody's business, and it can affect you at work or in your neighborhood, even if you are not the direct victim. We know around 1 in 3 women and men in the U.S. experience intimate partner violence during their lifetime. Intimate partner violence is sexual, physical violence, and/or stalking from a current or former dating partner or spouse.

Each and every person in our community has a role in preventing violence and creating a safe place for families to thrive. Many in our community work together to protect victims and prevent further abuse.

Take a few minutes to watch the story of how our community did just that with a woman named Fran and her family. View Fran's story here: <https://youtu.be/mUgB8e-9XG4>

Intimate partner violence is a serious, but preventable problem. We know that unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. A key strategy is to stop it before it starts. *Amped Health*, the health department's community collaborative that focuses on teen health, works on just that. Since the beginning of 2016 *Amped Health* has reached 210 Eau Claire County youth with *Safe Dates*. This evidence-based curriculum provides teens with awareness of what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like. It also gives them skills to develop healthy relationships including positive communication, as well as ways to help a friend in an abusive relationship.

If you are interested in learning more about *Amped Health* or the *Safe Dates* program please contact, Abby Hinz at abby.hinz@co.eau-claire.wi.us or 715-495-1085.



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