



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2018

Media Contact:

Toni Davidson
Director of Education
& Training
Phone: 559.487.1309
Email: toni@mmcenter.org

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The Marjaree Mason Center's KNOW MORE Teen Dating Violence Awareness Program is marking the month with several events at Fresno schools and activities for public participation.

Fresno, CA (2/12/2018) – The Marjaree Mason Center's KNOW MORE Teen Dating Violence Awareness Program is supporting Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month this February. Teen DV Month (TDVAM) is a national effort to raise awareness about abuse in teen and young adult relationships and promote programs that prevent it.

Dating violence is more common than many people think. One in three teens in the U.S. will experience physical, sexual or emotional abuse by someone they are in a relationship with before they become adults.

Tomorrow, February 13, is National Wear Orange 4 Love Day where everyone is encouraged to wear orange to raise awareness about this important issue that affects 1.5 million teens in our country each year.

Middle and high school campuses across Fresno County will be participating in TDVAM activities. The KNOW MORE Team will also be at Kings Canyon Middle School this week assisting students who are part of the "Safe Dates" program in Men's and Women's Alliance classes to run events each day at lunch (11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.):

- **Tuesday:** Crush Day | KNOW MORE to hand out Orange Crush with notes that say "Shatter the Silence. Stop the Violence." and share information about the week's activities.
- **Wednesday:** Hands Unite Poster | Students will paint their hand orange and stamp the pledge poster with their hand print, showing that they are pledging to unite in the effort to end teen dating violence.
- **Thursday:** Recipe for a Healthy Relationship | Students will learn about the key elements that make up a healthy relationship (trust, communication, respect, etc.).
- **Friday:** Wear Orange | Students can dress up with fun orange props and take selfies in a photo frame to use on social media, pledging to take a stand against teen dating violence.

###

About Marjaree Mason Center

For nearly four decades, the Marjaree Mason Center has offered shelter and support services to victims of domestic violence in Fresno County. Currently, the Center operates the county's only dedicated provider of domestic violence shelter and support services, including education for victims and youth. The Center was founded in 1979 after the murder of Marjaree Mason, a native of Easton. A graduate of Washington High School and Reedley College, Marjaree lived in Fresno for 31 years and was well known in the community. The Marjaree Mason Center supports and empowers adults and children affected by domestic violence, while striving to prevent and end the cycle of abuse through education and advocacy. To contact MMC, call the business center at 559.237.4706, the 24-hour confidential emergency hotline at 559.233.HELP (4357) or visit online at www.mmcenter.org.