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STEPS

STEPS TO END FAMILY VIOLENCE

A Program of Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families

Recent Highlights



Public Service Announcements

- [Parent & Child Relationship](#)
- [Street Harassment](#)
- [Relationship Abuse](#)



NASDAQ Welcomes STEPS to End Family Violence



One Billion Rising



Welcome!

We are thrilled to launch our first electronic newsletter! We hope to use it to inform our supporters of the many STEPS happenings throughout the year as well as introduce you to some of our program participants, policy initiatives, and program developments. You may also see *Action Alerts* in your mailboxes from time to time as we ask for help in alerting our elected officials and community members to critical issues.

September kicked off our 2012-2013 year with a bang (or, more accurately, a very loud ring). STEPS was invited to ring the NASDAQ opening bell with Dream Extreme founder, Linda Argila on September 21st. We could never have imagined seeing our logo projected over Times Square and are extremely grateful to Dream Extreme and Ms. Argila for bringing us that recognition. The third annual Dream Extreme was held the following week-end with all proceeds supporting the STEPS programming. Dream Extreme is a week-end kite boarding event held in East Hampton each year to raise awareness of domestic violence. For information on this year's Dream Extreme, please visit [here](#).


How to top the NASDAQ opening bell? How about activist and author of the *Vagina Monologues*, Eve Ensler, joining us as the featured speaker at our annual benefit? This year's event, held at the Highline Loft on October 1st honored the former Chair of the NYS Parole Board, Bob Dennison; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP; the Women In Prison Project of The Correctional Association of NY; and one of our outstanding volunteers, Nancy Sicardo. Photos from our Rikers-based programming taken by photographer Clara Vannucci were displayed and attendees mingled against a backdrop of the Highline and the lights of one of New York's most dynamic areas. During the program, Eve announced a \$20,000 gift from V-Day to support our services for formerly incarcerated domestic violence survivors: "I can't think of anything more important than helping a woman come out of prison into welcoming arms, come out of prison into a job, come out of prison into fortune, community, support."

Times Square Shines the Light on Domestic Violence




30 of our staff and Peer Leaders joined Borough President Scott Stringer and Eve Ensler in Times Square on October 2, 2012.

Upcoming Events

 Join us on April 13th in Washington Square Park from 12-3pm for the Anti-Street Harrassment Rally.



For more details:
<http://www.meetusonthestreet.org>

 The National Day of Silence is April 19th, 2013

Day of Silence

Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence, a national youth movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward fighting these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing today.

What are you going to do to end the silence?

Day of Silence
project

RAPP Coordinators are working with their peer leaders and the Gay Straight Student Alliance groups in RAPP schools to lead activities in observance of the Day



This fall also saw the culmination of an 18 month mural project, If Walls Could Talk, conceived by muralist Katie Yamasaki. The creation of two phenomenal murals - one in East Harlem and one at Rikers Island—are visual displays of an artistic dialogue between children and their incarcerated mothers. The East Harlem mural was based on the messages and drawings sent to the children by their mothers while serving time in Rikers. The mural painted on a wall of the women’s jail on RikersIsland represented messages sent from the children to their mothers. NY1 profiled the project; you can view their clips highlighting the work in East Harlem [here](#) and at Rikers Island [here](#). More pictures are available on Katie's [website](#).



We invite you to learn more about STEPS by visiting our website and YouTube Channel, and "liking" us on Facebook. Links to all are below.

In closing, I leave you with words that continue to inspire me every day:

"The incarcerated women in this country hold the core of our soul. They have been the women in the frontlines of suffering, and abuse, and neglect. When these women are free, we'll all be free."

Eve Ensler
The Highline Loft
October 1, 2012

Welcome to the STEPS to End Family Violence community!

of Silence. RAPP teens school wide take the vow of silence and hand out "speaker cards" explaining the reason for the day. Teens have also created educational posters and buttons for display.

Sincerely,



Acknowledgements:

We owe a great deal of thanks to Ered Massie and Kaitlin Weisman who designed, coordinated, and together got this newsletter off the ground!

Supporting STEPS to End family Violence

To support STEPS to End Family Violence in our efforts toward helping clients replace despair with the life-changing belief that they can create a future free from violence, make a donation by [clicking here](#).

For more information, please visit us at www.stepstoendfamilyviolence.org or contact Lucia Riviuccio at lriviuccio@egscf.org



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