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For Immediate Release:

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Research shows that if you really want to decrease violence in society, you have to address the underlying knowledge, attitudes and belief systems that foster violent behaviors. Prevention education needs to start with our youth.

For the second consecutive year, the Domestic Abuse Council, Inc. is offering Primary Prevention education curriculum titled "I can make my world a safer place" at Pine Trail Elementary School in Ormond Beach. The eight session course is being conducted over a two week period in the Extended Day, after school program.

Darlene Wolfson, the Director of Outreach Programs for the Domestic Abuse Council, Inc. has 18 fourth and fifth grade students role-playing and discussing various topics during the 45 minute sessions. Topics include gender stereotypes, violence in the media and bullying.

"We practice reacting to bullies and intervening as a bystander. We also talk about the difference between tattling and telling. The students really enjoy the role-playing aspect and talking about their experiences as a witness or being bullied," Wolfson said.

According to the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) website, primary prevention is any action, strategy or policy that prevents intimate partner violence (IPV) from initially occurring. Primary prevention seeks to reduce the overall likelihood that anyone will become a victim or a perpetrator by creating conditions that make violence less likely to occur. Prevention of IPV focuses on preventing first-time perpetration and first time victimization.

In 2007 FCADV received funding dedicated to initiating statewide prevention initiatives among FCADV's forty-two member programs from the Governor's Office and the Florida Department of Children and Families. For the past five years, the Domestic Abuse Council has been providing prevention curriculum to youth in Volusia County.

FCADV's Primary Prevention Initiatives work toward preventing first time victimization and perpetration of intimate partner violence by working with communities to develop activities that promote healthy relationships at all levels of society. Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers are currently engaged in implementing portions of their primary prevention plans which includes prevention activities with youth.

This is an annual program, the Domestic Abuse Council is seeking additional schools for a summer program or for the next school year.

To learn more about Domestic Abuse Council go to [www.domesticabusecouncil.com](http://www.domesticabusecouncil.com). The Domestic Abuse Hotline is [1-800-500-1119](tel:1-800-500-1119).

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