

March 14, 2005

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write a letter in support of the **RESPECT.2** grant application to fund their important work on bullying and dating violence. I am the Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Greater Omaha (DVCC) and have worked with Dr. Patricia Newman and RESPECT.2 since they started their efforts in Omaha. The education and prevention work RESPECT.2 is doing in the area of bullying and dating violence is without equal. The use of professional theater, coupled with the expertise of Dr. Newman, a licensed psychologist, is extremely effective in raising awareness on a difficult and important subject.

The focus of RESPECT.2 is to teach strategies and behavioral choices to students and their teachers to better equip them with bullying and dating violence. RESPECT.2 provides a unique teaching opportunity that brings the school community together using theatre, that manages to capture the children's' attention, and keep it. The data and information collected by Dr. Newman helps us all better address violence issues experienced by young people in our community.

On behalf of the partner organizations of the DVCC, we support the work of RESPECT and hope you will consider funding this effort.

Sincerely,

Joan L. Skogstrom
Executive Director
DVCC