

Media Contact:

Director of Community Education Stephanie Brown sbrown2@hubbardhouse.org

Office: 904-354-0076, ext. 209

Cell: 904-708-2984

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month: Believe Survivors

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Feb. 3, 2025) – This February, Hubbard House is calling on Northeast Florida to take a stand against teen dating violence and support teen survivors in our community.

In recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Hubbard House is launching a social media campaign, #ItStartsWithBelieving. The theme reflects that, to end teen dating violence in Northeast Florida, teens need to be taken seriously when they express concerns about their relationships. It's also crucially important that community members believe they can be part of the solution.

"A safer community for teen survivors is a safer community for all of us. That's why we are giving supporters the resources they need to recognize teen dating violence and help teen survivors find safety," says Hubbard House CEO Dr. Gail Patin.

One in three U.S. teenagers experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by a dating partner. Though teen dating violence is common, it is often overlooked. In fact, 81% of parents either do not know or do not believe teen dating violence is an issue, according to *love is respect*, a national anti-teen dating violence advocacy organization. Adults may dismiss teen relationships as "a phase" or "young love that won't last", but the relationship is real to the teens involved, and so is the abuse.

There are many ways to get involved with Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month:

- Learn how to identify teen dating violence and support survivors by reading Hubbard House's <u>blog post</u>.
- Join "Wear Orange Day" to raise awareness by wearing your best orange outfit on February 11.
- Like and share Hubbard House's #ItStartswithBelieving social media campaign on Facebook and Instagram.
- Invite a Hubbard House speaker to present on teen dating violence and healthy relationship skills at your school, company, or other organization. Visit Hubbard House's website to learn more.

Hubbard House has robust youth and teen programming, including prevention education and therapeutic support for teen survivors, with parental consent. Hubbard House can help teen survivors address immediate safety needs and learn how to connect with safe adults. Any teen in Duval or Baker County who needs free, confidential support can reach out to Hubbard House through the 24/7 Textline at 904-210-3698 or Hotline at 904-354-3114.

About Hubbard House:

<u>Hubbard House</u> is a full-service certified domestic violence center providing emergency shelter and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence and their families, in Duval and Baker counties in northeast Florida. Free, confidential support is available 24/7 through Hubbard House's Hotline at 904-354-3114 and Textline at 904-210-3698.