

NEWS RELEASE

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For
Children's Cove
The Cape & Islands Child Advocacy Center



Children's Cove Partners with Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School to create Teen TASK Force *Cape Teens Volunteer to Raise Awareness of Child Sexual Abuse*

Hyannis, MA – Children's Cove: The Child Advocacy Center for the Cape and Islands, has partnered with Dennis-Yarmouth High School in recruiting 15 volunteers to create the Teen TASK (Taking a Stand for Kids) Force. The Teen TASK force is a group of students working together to raise awareness for the programs and services of the agency and to educate & advocate for child abuse issues. The mission of the Teen TASK Force is to engage teens by empowering them to advocate for Children's Cove and to educate their peers on child abuse issues.

The program was started over a year ago with the goal to develop a partnership with a local school to create the initial task force and to collaboratively outline the goals of the group. Stacy Gallagher, Director of Children's Cove stated:

“We found that in some instances of abuse in our community, teens are often disclosing to one another and not to a parent or trusted adult. At times this has allowed abuse to go on longer than it should have had they know about the resources available to them.” Gallagher continued “There's a number of reasons why teens may not tell an adult, and we want to work with the teen's in this group to find the best way to help make it easier for them and their peers to get the help that they may need.”

Fifteen volunteers from the sophomore class make up the inaugural TASK Force membership. The teens will meet monthly with Children's Cove staff members throughout the remainder of school year to learn about the services of Children's Cove, gain a detailed awareness of child abuse and the response from partner agencies in the community, and to help create a public awareness project to be released in April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

“We believe this will benefit everyone involved in the Teen Task Force” Gallagher said, “They will learn about larger issues affecting our community and ways they can get help for their peers. In turn, we will learn the best way to talk to their peers in a way we can deliver our awareness message effectively. It's a win-win.”

Children's Cove, a department of Barnstable County, has been the Cape and the Island's Childrens Advocacy Center since 1997. Children's Cove provides coordinated and comprehensive multidisciplinary services to child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, witness to domestic violence and child sexual exploitation and trafficking. To learn more visit www.ChildrensCove.org

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