



Town of Forest Heights

5508 ARAPAHOE DRIVE
FOREST HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 20745-1968
(301) 839-1030 Fax (301) 839-9236

Jacqueline Goodall
Mayor

COUNCIL MEMBERS

C. Lynn Smith-Barnes – Ward I
Robert Barnes Jr. – Ward I
Jonathon Kennedy II – Ward II
Cynthia Mann – Ward II
Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad – Ward III
Larry Stoner – Ward III

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2014

Forest Heights Partners with Oxon Hill Nonprofit Group to Educate Youths on Dating Violence

Forest Heights, Md. – In observance of Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month, the Town of Forest Heights, in collaboration with the Oxon Hill-based nonprofit group An Earthly Embrace Inc. and the Forest Heights-Oxon Hill Community Development Corporation, will co-host a roundtable for local teenaged girls **Feb. 8 from 2 to 6 p.m.** at the **Forest Heights Municipal Building, 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745.**

The afternoon roundtable will provide information on relationship abuse, and will incorporate a number of self-esteem building exercises. Guest speakers will include Forest Heights Mayor Jacqueline Goodall and domestic violence advocate/motivational speaker Queen Afi Gaston.

“It is so important that we raise awareness and begin to break the cycle. Teen dating violence is just as serious as adult domestic violence, and if we don’t stop it now it will continue,” said Forest Heights Mayor Jacqueline Goodall. “Teen relationship abuse affects all types of teens, regardless of how much money your parents make, what your grades are, how you look or dress, your religion, or your race. Teen relationship abuse occurs in straight, gay and lesbian relationships and it’s common. We hope that this roundtable is a start toward getting the word out that ‘Love doesn’t hurt.’”

Founded in 2012, An Earthly Embrace Inc. provides educational programs and support services for victims of domestic violence while also working to educate and empower young girls in high-risk communities.

“An Earthly Embrace is so pleased to partner with the Town of Forest Heights to raise awareness of teen dating violence,” said Cynthia Eugene, founder and executive director of An Earthly Embrace Inc. “We have a growing population of youths in our community, and if we do

not address teen dating violence, they will be impacted negatively. The behaviors that they exhibit as young adults will stay with them as they enter childhood."

In addition to the Raising Queens program, which provides interactive life skills classes for girls between the ages of 8 and 21, the organization offers career development workshops for adolescents and adult women; a Mobile Boutique that provides clothing and items of necessity to victims of domestic violence and their children; a Women's Self-Defense Workshop; and an assistance program.

More information on An Earthly Embrace is available at www.anearthlyembrace.com or on the group's Facebook page.

The Town of Forest Heights comprises approximately 2,500 residents and 945 homes that straddle both sides of Maryland Route 210, and is located near the Capital Beltway, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and National Harbor.

Local Contact

Mimi Liu
571-835-8196
liu.y.mimi@gmail.com

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