

# NEWS FROM.....

## The Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Ginger Katz, Winner of the Nonprofit Advocate of the Year Award Hartford Business Journal's 2010 Nonprofit Heroes

**(Norwalk, CT, May, 2010)**... The Hartford Business Journal has awarded Ginger Katz, founder and CEO of the Norwalk-based Courage to Speak Foundation, as the **2010 Nonprofit Advocate of the Year**. This award recognizes individuals for outstanding achievement and service whose work helps to build a stronger community. The Hartford Business Journal will honor Ms. Katz and other Nonprofit Heroes by highlighting their achievements in a special May 10, 2010, publication inserted into the Hartford Business Journal and at a special awards presentation to be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Convention Center in Hartford from 4-5pm.

Ginger and Larry Katz founded the Courage to Speak<sup>®</sup> Foundation in 1996, shortly after they lost their son, Ian, to a drug overdose. Its mission is to save lives by empowering youth to be drug free and encouraging parents to communicate effectively with their children about dangers of drugs.

"Silence is a killer when it comes to children and drug abuse," says Ginger Katz. "If we don't speak about this problem we're not going to have solutions. And if we don't have solutions, children will die."

To sustain and grow her impassioned message, Ms. Katz worked with experts and developed the *Courage To Speak Drug Prevention Education Curricula* for elementary, middle and high schools taught in many schools. She spearheaded development of *Courage to Speak - Courageous Parenting 101*<sup>™</sup>, a free course that educates parents on how to keep their children safe. Through the website [www.couragetospeak.org](http://www.couragetospeak.org), support groups and annual *Courage to Speak Empowering Youth to be Drug Free Family Night*, the Courage to Speak Foundation programs are dedicated to saving young lives by engaging home, schools and entire communities and educating young people and their parents of the devastating effects of drug abuse.

Ms. Katz authored the book *Sunny's Story*, which tells her son Ian's story through the eyes and heart of Sunny, their family beagle. *Sunny's Story*, a drug prevention book for children of all ages, parents and educators is in libraries, schools and read in classrooms throughout the country.

"My message is a simple one," says Ginger. Katz. "Don't underestimate early use of drugs by children. Parents are the single biggest influence in their children's lives. Every child will be approached and tempted. Talk to them constantly and stay close to them."

For more information about the Courage to Speak Foundation, visit [www.couragetospeak.org](http://www.couragetospeak.org).

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