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## The Courage to Speak® Foundation's 24<sup>th</sup> Year in Mission to Save Lives

### “The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Courage to Speak Empowering Youth to be Drug-Free Family Night” March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The 16th Annual Courage to Speak Empowering Youth to Be Drug Free Family Night will take place on **Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.**, at **Nathan Hale Middle School, 176 Strawberry Hill Ave Norwalk, CT**, (*snow date: April 1st*). All are invited to the event, which will bring students, parents, educators, school and government officials, business and other community leaders together to affirm their commitment to keep our children safe from drugs and other risky behaviors. **A complimentary dinner will be served at 5:30pm and program begins at 6:30pm.**

The Courage to Speak Foundation was founded by Ginger and Larry Katz in 1996 after their son, Ian, died of an accidental heroin and prescription drug overdose. Since then, it has been their mission to do everything in their power to prevent this tragedy from happening to another family. This marks the 24<sup>th</sup> year of fulfilling that mission.

This exciting event will spotlight the outstanding work and words of students who participate in the Courage to Speak Foundation's curricula in their schools taught by the health class teachers. Norwalk's Mayor Harry Rilling, Norwalk Chief of Police, Thomas Kulhawik and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Steven Adamowski will introduce the students who take the microphone and speak out with their vows not to use drugs. Nathan Hale Middle School Principal, Dr. Albert Sackey, will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

On display will be the remarkable artwork created by the students. Highlights of the event include the students' readings of their drug prevention messages and the *Courage to Speak Presentation* for parents and students by Ginger Katz, CEO & Founder of the Courage to Speak Foundation.

For more information about the event, to become a sponsor and volunteer, visit [www.couragetospeak.org](http://www.couragetospeak.org), call 1-203-831-9700, or email Ginger Katz at [gkatz@couragetospeak.org](mailto:gkatz@couragetospeak.org)

#### **About the Courage to Speak Foundation:**

The Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc. exists to save lives by empowering youth to be drug free through fostering education and open communication about the dangers of drug use. Ginger Katz founded the nonprofit organization in 1996, just months after her 20 year old son, Ian James Eaccarino, died of a drug overdose. She and her husband, Larry, pledged to do everything in their power to help prevent such a tragedy from happening to another family. The Courage To Speak Foundation spearheaded the development of drug prevention curricula for elementary (based on *Sunny's Story*), middle and high school students as well as for parents through *Courage to Speak - Courageous Parenting 101*. Ms. Katz has given nearly 1,000 presentations to over a million young people and the adults who care about them. Please visit [www.couragetospeak.org](http://www.couragetospeak.org).

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