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“Courage To Speak” Founder Launches New Book Aimed at Parents and Children with Information to Prevent Drug Use Among Young People

***SUNNY’S STORY* RELEASED**

Sunny’s Story is a compelling story for children, teenagers, parents, grandparents, and teachers written by Norwalk resident, Virginia “Ginger” Katz and Marci Alborghetti. *Sunny’s Story* tells of joyful times and sad times, and of how a dog’s best friend was needlessly lost. It is narrated through the eyes, ears and mind of Sunny, the family beagle. It is the ups and downs of life with his young master, beginning with their meeting at an animal shelter, and ending with a futile effort to ward off disaster.

Ginger Katz has brought new life to her message of empowering youth to be drug free. The family dog and narrator, Sunny, is a keen and intelligent observer of damage done by alcohol and other drug use to his master, Ian. He tells a heart warming, but tragic story that will make readers, young and old, think twice about choices being made every day. The book is for both young and old and the story of love, compassion, caring and understanding is universal.

Ginger has transformed a personal tragedy into a beacon of hope. Parents and their children need to talk openly and honestly about all of life’s challenges, but particularly about the dangers of alcohol and other drug use. Communication between them must be clear and consistent. The Courage to Speak Foundation has told the story of how to save young lives in over 800 presentations given across the country to hundreds of thousands of people across the country.

Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Professor of Practice and Associate Dean, Harvard School of Public Health, commented on the *Sunny’s Story*: “This book is an important and unique addition to the list of preventive tools so necessary for children in today’s world. *Sunny’s Story* masterfully opens a dialogue and introduces complex issues to a young audience. Teachers, parents and children will benefit from the dialogue.”

Robert. B. Charles, former Assistant Secretary of State, under Colin Powell, for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, said: "Through the voice of the family dog and in a tender and thoughtful way, *Sunny’s Story* brings to light one of the most challenging issues facing children, parents and educators today.”

David Hay, Brookside Elementary School Principal, said: “Educators and parents need to be as strong in voice as *Sunny* is in the story. This story has to be told and it will

save lives."

Dr. Lynn Moore, West Rocks Middle School Principal, added: "The book about *Sunny* will be an asset to our language arts and health curriculum. It will be required reading for my school."

Calvina Fay, Executive Director of Drug Free America Foundation, Inc., said: "*Sunny's Story* begins as any child's storybook. Tragically, its ending reflects real life as it is experienced by far too many families. Its unique approach in helping children consider the consequences of their actions and impacts upon their families is very powerful. *Sunny's Story* would be a valuable read for all youngsters and their parents!"

Kileen Doyle, grandmother of three grandchildren, said: "I've decided to give *Sunny's Story* as a special gift to my grandchildren and all of my friend's children."

Pat Vigilo, Ponus Ridge Middle School Health Class Teacher comments on the *Sunny's Story*: "A heartfelt story on how one's decisions effects family and relationships"

Salvatore J. Corda, Ph.D Superintendent of Schools, Norwalk Public Schools said: "Ian's story, told through the eyes of his dog, *Sunny*, will help children understand how even "good kids" can fall prey to the lure of drugs. Ian's tragically lost life is still doing good by the commitment of his parents to help young people and their parents understand that the danger never stops and having the courage to face the hard issues is the only way to keep our children safe."

For more information on purchasing *Sunny's Story*, visit the website The Courage to Speak Foundation www.couragetospeak.org or call 1-203-831-9700.