

SOUTHWEST PA SAYS

NO MORE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Olivia Lammel
olammel@elias-savion.com
412-642-7700

Pittsburgh Leaders Say “No More” to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

- Historic Public Signing Ceremony takes place today in the Allegheny County Courthouse Courtyard -

PITTSBURGH – June 19, 2015 – A sea of teal will fill the courtyard at the Allegheny County Courthouse Courtyard today as corporate and civic leaders, elected officials and supporters join together and take “The Father’s Day Pledge to End Gender Violence.” FISA Foundation, in partnership with The Heinz Endowments and United Way of Allegheny County, organized the public signing ceremony as part of a statewide campaign with Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV). The teal NO MORE symbol signifies a future free of domestic violence and sexual assault.

“The goal of the campaign is to engage all sectors of the community in the prevention of domestic and sexual violence,” says Kristy Trautmann, executive director of FISA Foundation. “I have been involved in the cause for 25 years and the conversations have centered on assisting victims to get help, and that remains very important. But this work focuses on prevention, on keeping these crimes from happening in the first place. I am inspired to see leaders that are committed to using their personal influence to create safer communities across the region.”

Grant Oliphant, president of The Heinz Endowments, Bob Nelkin, president and chief executive officer of United Way of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto, other prominent speakers and more than a dozen leaders will be among the first public signers at this historic event. Special guest former NFL player Charlie Batch will also share his story.

“We need to engage as many organizations, leaders and citizens to act so that we can prevent domestic and sexual violence. It starts with awareness and a commitment to treat people with respect,” says Mr. Nelkin of United Way. “Our role in the region is to convene the leaders in our community who can impact real and long lasting change. The pledge is a first step in mobilizing our community.”

The event calls on all members of the community to take action by signing the pledge online at southwestpasaysnomore.org/fathers-day-pledge, and then follow through by taking action:

speaking out if they witness someone being disrespectful or abusive; encouraging their company to join STANDING FIRM: The Business Case To End Partner Violence; and expressing support for victims of abuse.

After the public recitation of the pledge led by Reverend Liddy Barlow of Christian Associates of Southwest PA and Rabbi Aaron Bisno of Rodef Shalom Congregation, a group of corporate and nonprofit leaders will step up and sign a 5-by-7 foot pledge banner and state why they say “No More” to domestic violence.

Silent Witnesses will also grace the courtyard. Painted red, these life-size statues serve as a powerful reminder of women who were killed by their partners in Allegheny County.

In 2014, Pittsburgh became the first city in Pennsylvania to participate in “The Father’s Day Pledge” when area leaders signed the pledge and Grant Oliphant wrote an op-ed. This year’s event is the first public signing event held by *Southwest PA Says No More*.

About Southwest PA Says No More

Southwest PA Says NO MORE is a growing community of organizations and individuals who are working to end domestic and sexual violence. FISA Foundation, in partnership with The Heinz Endowments and United Way of Allegheny County developed Southwest PA Says No More to showcase the important prevention-focused work happening in this region, and to make it easier for individuals and organizations to take action to stop gender-based violence. More than 20 organizations across the region have partnered with Southwest PA Says No More, including the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh, and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. For information, visit southwestpasaysnomore.org.

###