



November 17, 2009

Backgrounder

Calgary's Bravest Men

Brave Men STOPPING the cycle of domestic abuse

Calgary Counselling Centre's Bravest Men Events were inspired by the knowledge that while there has been much progress in domestic abuse awareness and counselling treatment over the past 25 years, there remains a concern: How do we engage men in the solution?

Women have been at the forefront of the issue of domestic abuse for decades. Their influential work has helped raise considerable awareness among the community, however it is crucial for men to step up and speak out about domestic abuse and help create solutions -- for men who abuse, for men who are victims and for their partners.

In November 2009, Calgary Counselling Centre is hosting its 4th annual Bravest Men Gala evening event and its 2nd annual Youth Forum. Each event will feature our keynote speaker - Michael "Pinball" Clemons, one of Canada's best known athletes and former Toronto Argonaut. Clemons has a personal story to tell about how domestic abuse affected his family. Clemons also does a lot of work with youth, inspiring them to be brave and to be leaders in their schools and in their communities.

The Gala evening event is an inspiring, elegant event featuring a gourmet dinner, Clemons' keynote address, as well as the presentation of the 2009 Calgary's Bravest Man Award. The Bravest Man Award goes to a man or a group in the community who has demonstrated significant leadership in the area of stopping the cycle of domestic abuse.

The Youth Forum connects youth to the realities of domestic and social abuse. We partner with schools and community organizations to present this critical educational message. In 2009, this partnership is with Education Matters and the Calgary Police Service. By helping youth understand what they can do to be safer, or how they might break free from their experience of domestic abuse, then we might be able to save a family and reduce violence and abuse.

Fully one third of Calgary Counselling Centre's clients are in the area of domestic abuse. The Centre is at the forefront of industry research that is working to stop the cycle of domestic abuse. Proceeds from the event will support a resident student bursary and treatment, research and prevention programs at the Wilson Centre for Domestic Abuse Studies at Calgary Counselling Centre.

For more information, or to purchase tickets to attend the evening event, please visit www.calgarysbravestmen.ca.

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Calgary Counselling Centre is a registered charitable organization, and the leading research and knowledge-based counselling facility in Canada. Since 1962, the Centre has been committed to providing compassionate, professional and affordable counselling services that help build better lives for Calgarians through positive outcomes. Offering service in over 15 languages, the Centre is also a recognized leader in the treatment of family violence, depression, self esteem and eating disorders. Through its ongoing research and education programs, Calgary Counselling Centre strives to meet the changing needs of our community. The Centre's fee structure is based on income - no one is turned away for an inability to pay.

