



Oct. 20, 2008

News Release

Brave men strive to end domestic abuse on Oct. 23, 2008

Calgary, AB – Oct. 20, 2008 – Former mayor and Calgary’s Bravest Man Al Duerr and the newest dragon on CBC’s Dragon’s Den and philanthropist, W. Brett Wilson are among Calgary’s Bravest Men. They are working to end domestic abuse together and are the ambassadors for Calgary Counselling Centre’s gala event – Calgary’s Bravest Men - this Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008.

The third annual event at the Calgary Petroleum Club, brings together an influential group of Calgarians who are committed to end the cycle of abuse in our community. Oct. 24, 2008 will see the expansion of Calgary’s Bravest Men to include an educational youth forum for Junior High School students.

“Domestic abuse doesn’t always come with bruises and broken bones,” states our ambassadorial team. “Justin Berry seemed to be a typical 13 year old kid. Class president and a member of the school band, he received high marks and no one, not his friends, family or teachers, ever suspected that he had been lured into the world of Internet pornography.”

Berry will share his own perspective as a male victim of abuse and his struggle to speak up and fight for justice. Justin will share the story of how after five years, he was able to turn away from his secret life; becoming a federal witness against the adults who abused him, and dedicate his life to educating children and their parents about online predators.

A youth forum has been added to the annual gala event, where Justin will speak to thousands of junior high school students, urging them to be careful about how they spend their time online. Sponsored by Education Matters, United Way, a private funder and Shaw TV, the youth forum takes place at the Telus Convention Centre on Oct. 24, 2008.

“Justin’s story is every parent’s nightmare,” says Robbie Babins-Wagner, CEO Calgary Counselling Centre. “Sexual abuse like what Justin experienced is one form of domestic abuse. Abuse does not discriminate against race or gender, or confine itself to one community. Everyone is affected by abuse.”

Calgary’s Bravest Men is a catalyst event, aimed at providing community leadership, public education and a social dividend in the form of dialogue and awareness. Justin will encourage Calgarians to stand up and lend their voices to the dialogue on domestic abuse and its destructive impact on our community. The event encourages male community leaders to join the many women who stand at the front lines against domestic abuse.

The Wilson Centre for Domestic Abuse Studies at Calgary Counselling Centre has been at the forefront of domestic abuse counselling and advocacy in the community for a quarter century. With a focus on proactive programs that seek to end the cycle of abuse before it begins, we have seen dramatic progress in awareness and treatment of both victims and offenders. Over that time, there has been an increase in awareness of domestic abuse as a prevailing issue within the community, and growth in available counselling services for parties affected by domestic abuse. Proceeds from the Oct. 23 event ticket sales will support the Wilson Centre for Domestic Abuse Studies at Calgary Counselling Centre.

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For more information or interviews with Justin Berry, Al Duerr or W. Brett Wilson, please contact:

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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.

