



Children as Witness

2009-10 Cabrini College Communication Department Multimedia Web Site

The focus of this year's Communication Department Senior Seminar is the creation of a web site designed both to educate elementary school teachers about Domestic Violence and to give teachers ways to help students living with Domestic Violence.

Teachers are "mandated reporters" in Pennsylvania and have to report suspicions of child abuse. Domestic Violence between parents is not mandated to be reported by teachers because the violence might not happen physically to the child. But living in a home with Domestic Violence can inhibit learning and leave children psychologically scarred.

The goals of this web site are:

- to help make elementary school teachers aware of Domestic Violence warning signs in their students;
- to present ways to approach children about the topic;
- to discuss steps teachers can take in the classroom to help their students;
- to educate teachers about services available to children;
- to help school districts develop a safety plan for students involved in Domestic Violence situations.

Cabrini College students are currently interviewing adult survivors of childhood Domestic Violence, social workers, lawyers, law enforcement personnel, teachers, school counselors, school administrators, sociologists, hospital employees, crisis center volunteers and Domestic Violence shelter workers.

The web site should be launched at the end of April 2010.

For further information, please contact:

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