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Contact: Jenna Imergoot
314-570-7625

BreakDown STL: *Changing Lives for Community Teens*
Exposing the Truth Behind Sexual Activity and Substance Abuse

Saint Louis, MO - Today's youth are constantly being deceived with messages portraying a false sense of reality with little or no guidance as to what consequences *really* happen from sexual activity and drug and alcohol abuse. Many teens have grown up in a feel good culture with the attitude, "*If it feels good...do it*" with little or no regard to the consequences that follow. Fortunately, a new youth organization has found a way to reach youth by exposing the truth about sexual activity, relationships, and substance abuse through a dynamic, innovative, and powerful presentation style.

BreakDown STL is a not for profit organization that creates real life situations from the outside looking in for students. Through media and live presentation, students gain a better idea of what *really happens* when bad decision making comes into play. Available for public and private schools, youth groups, and youth organizations, BreakDown STL has already performed for a number of St. Louis area schools, including **Lafayette High School** and **Westminster Christian Academy**. The response from the administration, teachers, and students alike has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Talk about impacting kids in a very positive, proactive way! An action-packed, humorous, thoughtful, visually exciting. reality-based production that entertains while imparting a powerful message that resonates with all teens who live in today's world. Knowledge is power and this program helps to empower our teens with skills they can use daily to protect themselves in ways that are user-friendly and effective. If this program hasn't been to your school yet, book it today! It's worth it!" - Mary Battenberg, Rockwood School Board

Facts and statistics are used as supporting evidence for sexually transmitted diseases and drug and alcohol abuse. However, there is another side to the youth that text books and pamphlets cannot reach. Through their *live dramas*, BreakDown STL is reaching the heart and soul of youth and tearing down the walls of emotion and barriers. They are leaving lasting impressions that students will reflect upon. Executive Director for BreakDown STL Jenna Imergoot says, "*Our goal is to make our youth feel good about making their own positive decisions to say no despite the pressure to act on impulse and just do what ever feels good at the time. Until our youth can emotionally*

make a connection and know why they are saying no, it will be harder for them to reinforce their positive decisions. We just want to help and let them understand they are not alone in their struggles.” After a recent visit to Lafayette High School the program really helped a student as he could identify with the production. “I can't say enough about BreakDown! The performance was real, entertaining, challenging, encouraging and informative. I feel like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders and I don't have to be pressured by EVERYONE that "Everyone's doing it" because they're not and you have a whole amazing, talented team of students to prove it.”- Lafayette High School student

To book a presentation or for more information, please contact the BreakDown STL Executive Director, Jenna Imergoot.