

March 5, 2009

**BreakDown STL “Breaks Down” the FACTS on Teen Health
Through Dance, Drama, Music and Testimonials**

ST. LOUIS -- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, St. Louis ranks number one in the country in cases of both gonorrhea and chlamydia. Fortunately for St. Louis, there exists a powerful organization, comprised of young people, designed to educate teens in a language they can understand.

BreakDown STL is a peer to peer outreach program that brings the powerful and dynamic message of hope and freedom to a generation of young people looking for the REAL thing. Through dance, drama, motivational speaking and multi-media, BreakDown STL tackles tough issues regarding sex, relationships, drugs and alcohol. Teens are engaged, educated, and entertained as they learn the truth about consequences and are encouraged to make positive choices in their own lives. This fast paced, high-energy performance, designed specifically for today's digital generation, was created to empower and encourage even the most skeptical teen.

Executive Director, Jenna Imergoot, launched the St. Louis chapter in 2006 and, three years later, the need for straight talk among teens and adults is greater than ever. She explained, “Teenagers are right when they say that adults don’t always understand just how complicated the world can be for them. We help simplify things for them by letting them hear the facts, directly from other teens who suffer the same pressures and challenges.”

Imergoot says the performers are students from local public and private schools who practice on their own time for monthly performances at area middle and high schools. The facts are tempered with high energy hip-hop performances, drama scenes and personal testimonials from both young people and adults while the latest in teen health statistics fills the screen.

“BreakDown STL really approached some tough issues with a sense of reality and purpose. Our students related to the honest, fact-forward, student-centered skits and

testimonials from your members, causing many to take an honest look into their own views and beliefs about sex, love and relationships.” – John Shaunessey, Lafayette High School Principal

-more-

BreakDown STL “Breaks Down” the FACTS on Teen Health – Add One

“Breakdown STL is absolutely dynamic and will reach youth in a powerful way! Its abstinence-based message through drama, dance and multi-media provides students with information and real-life scenarios that will cause them to think seriously about the choices they make. It is fast-paced and hard-hitting. A must-see for youth across the country!” - Claire Steiner, Pattonville Wellness Coordinator & Middle School parent

BreakDown STL is a subsidiary of the International Breakdown Organization. The program includes five other chapters in the United States and three international chapters including Uganda, Mexico and Puerto Rico. BreakDown St. Louis is a 501(c) 3 organization that is, for the first time, partially funded under a federal Community Based Abstinence Education grant. The grant is shared by Thrive’s “Best Choice” initiative aimed at providing sexual integrity education to health classes across the greater St. Louis area. The two programs operate out of the Children’s Hope International facility in Maryland Heights. BreakDown St. Louis is pleased to accept donations to help supplement grant funds.

If you are interested in learning more about BreakDown STL, auditioning for the team, booking a performance or making a tax deductible contribution, please visit the website at www.breakdownstl.org.