

<http://www.ndvh.org/hotlines/>

# Hotlines

A publication of the National Domestic Violence Hotline



Help is available to callers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Hotline advocates are available for victims and anyone calling on their behalf to provide crisis intervention, safety planning, information and referrals to agencies in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Assistance is available in English and Spanish with access to more than 170 languages through interpreter services. If you or someone you know is frightened about something in your relationship, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224.

[Learn More About The Hotline](#)

**Donate Today!**

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Making a difference in the lives of thousands of victims, survivors and their families is the best reason to give to NDVH. Every donation to the Hotline helps ensure someone is available to answer the most important call of a victim's life. We value your support.

## Welcome

Welcome to the first online version of Hotlines. While our initial reasons for moving Hotlines online were financial, we are excited about this new way of communicating with readers. Not having to "go to press" builds in flexibility for us, allowing us to make last minute changes and to provide you with the latest information in a more timely delivery system.

As you know, these past few months have been challenging for the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) and loveisrespect, National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline. Private giving is down 40-50 percent from last year. The Hotline depends on private funding for 35 percent of its budget and the Helpline, our two-year-old program is 100 percent private funded. During these past months my time has been focused almost 100 percent on fundraising and decision-making to protect our core services.

In spite of the economic challenges, we have received gifts, and we have had opportunities to develop some very exciting partnerships. One of these is a campaign called "My Time to Shine" with Martina McBride. She has been interested in domestic violence and has been a friend to NDVH for years. With her oldest daughter now a teenager, she wants to be an integral part of our efforts against dating violence. Kicking off in March with the release of her new CD called Shine, the public awareness campaign will include a video to be used at performances for her fall tour, speaking engagements, PSAs, a presence for the campaign on her web pages as well as ours, and much more. Martina's daughter, Delaney, 14 will be involved in the campaign which will benefit loveisrespect. To learn more about the NDVH Celebrity Board click [here](#).

Another exciting partnership this year is with NBC for The More You Know campaign. Actresses Mariska Hargitay and Patricia Arquette produced PSAs on domestic violence which featured the Hotline number. The spots began running in January and will continue through this TV season.

Both NDVH and loveisrespect were pulled into the media spotlight with the Chris Brown and Rihanna story. The story has made headlines for more than six weeks and promises to continue past Chris' next court date. We have been featured, with help from members of our Celebrity Board, on Larry King Live, Oprah, Tyra, CNN, MTV online, People magazine and more. With the attention, call volume has set records for both NDVH and loveisrespect. In a two-week period from March 1-16, Hotline calls were up 27 percent. During the same period, some individual days were up as high as 90 percent and 124 percent. On March 12, the Helpline was featured on a two-hour 106 & Park episode on Black Entertainment TV, on Oprah and on Tyra's web page, resulting in 1,927 calls received and 1,777 visitors to the website, the highest numbers in the program's two-year history.

Even as call volume breaks records, these past few months have been challenging for the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) and loveisrespect, National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline (NTDAH). Private giving is down 40-50 percent from last year. The Hotline depends on private funding for 35 percent of its budget and the Helpline, our two-year-old program, is 100 percent private funded. During these past months my time has been focused almost 100 percent on fundraising and decision-making to protect our core services. I hope you can join us in supporting National Domestic Violence Hotline and loveisrespect National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline.

NDVH and loveisrespect is thankful for your generous contributions and continued support.





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## Martina McBride Joins Effort to Promote Healthy Teen Dating Relationships

Martina McBride and loveisrespect, National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline have partnered in a new program called My Time to Shine, which has been announced in conjunction with the release of her new album, Shine.



As the mother of three daughters, the four-time CMA Female Vocalist is passionate about the need to increase awareness for teens and parents about teen dating abuse, and about how to develop healthy relationships. Recent research has shown that one in three girls who have been in a serious relationship say they've been concerned about being physically hurt by their partner.

My Time to Shine was developed for Martina's Shine CD and tour around the concept that the teen years should be a young person's time to shine-the time in their lives when they discover who they are, what their talents are, and how to have healthy relationships.

Martina will speak out in public service announcements which will be shown at her concert venues when her tour begins in October. My Time to Shine merchandise will be sold at Martina's concerts to raise funds to benefit the teen helpline.

For more on the Shine album, visit [www.martina-mcbride.com](http://www.martina-mcbride.com).

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## National Domestic Violence Hotline Welcomes New Operations Director

The National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) is pleased to announce the selection of Katie Ray-Jones to serve as its new Operations Director.

Prior to NDVH, Katie was the Program Manager for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's Family Violence Program. Katie was responsible for administering funding to family violence providers throughout the state of Texas. She came to Austin, Texas from San Diego, California, where she was a Director in a multi-service community-based organization and provided oversight to services in the area of family violence, child abuse and homelessness.



Katie has over 10 years experience in working in the field of family violence. She holds a BS degree in Child and Family Development and MA degrees in Counseling/Psychology and Nonprofit Management and Leadership.

## Hotline Featured on NBC's The More You Know

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is featured in the NBC's The More You Know public service campaign for 2009. Two spots by two NBC actresses focus on domestic violence with the Hotline number shown on the screen. The More You Know is the longest running network public service campaign. Through its on-air public service announcements and website, The More You Know reaches more than 53 million viewers each week.

The NDVH spots feature Law and Order: Special Victims Unit actress Mariska Hargitay and Medium's Patricia Arquette. Both shows have featured domestic violence victims in episodes.

On NBC's Medium, Emmy winner Patricia Arquette portrays Allison Dubois, a dedicated wife and mother, who also happens to be a gifted psychic able to communicate with the dead in NBC's hit drama series Medium.

After winning the 2006 Emmy for Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series, Mariska Hargitay returned for her 10th season as Olivia Benson, the ambitious and emotionally driven detective on NBC's Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.

Both spots are featured on our website at [www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org).

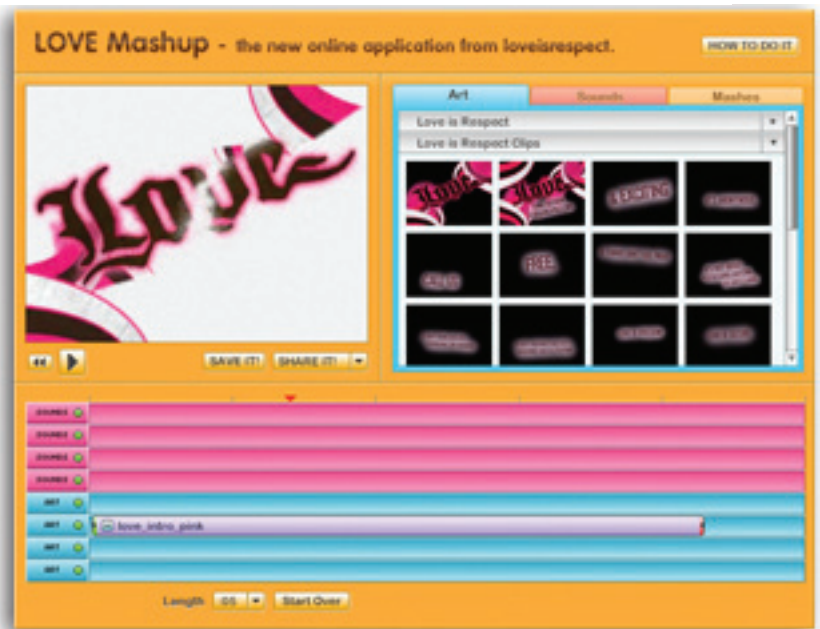


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## loveisrespect.org Launch of the Love Mashup a Huge Success

Loveisrespect, National Teen Dating Helpline kicked off National Teen Dating Awareness and Prevention Week in February with the release of the online application Love Mashup! The Love message movie maker from loveisrespect. Users have been busy making quick movies using art and sound elements from the LOVE campaign to spread the message of healthy dating. Teens are making movies from five seconds up to 30 seconds, by dragging and dropping sounds and art clips from the LOVE Library to send to their friends or anyone for any occasion.

The Love Mashup was funded by the generosity of the Avon Foundation through the m.powerment by mark campaign. The campaign is dedicated to empowering young women and preventing the cycle of dating abuse and partner abuse. "Love Mashup is a great tool that gives a voice to young women who want to express their feelings and concerns to their friends about recognizing the signs of abuse and how to prevent it before it begins," said Lauren Conrad, Honorary Co-Chair of the mark girl's m.powerment campaign.



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## NDVH Donors Spotlight

National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) depends on contributions from individuals, as well as foundations and corporations—individuals such as Greg Behrendt and Celina Vasquez.

Comedian and author Greg Behrendt has contributed a portion ticket sale proceeds sales from each of his performances to NDVH. Behrendt is a standup comic first and foremost but is also well-known for his published work including the vastly popular "He's Just Not That Into You" which he co-authored. The book was initially published in 1994 and has recently been released as a film.

Former Hotline Advocate Celina Vasquez has assisted the Hotline in obtaining a \$5,000 gift. Vasquez, a former bilingual NDVH Advocate, worked at the Hotline from 1996 to 2000, and worked at the Women's Shelter in Long Beach, California, as well as serving as a Social Worker/Health Educator at Tarrant County, Texas. She was selected as a 2008 Verizon Wireless Mobilizing Voices Campaign Honoree and as an award recipient was provided a \$5,000 contribution which she could offer to a domestic violence agency of her choice.

Verizon Wireless recently settled a lawsuit to stop a telemarketer from illegally using an autodialer to call 500,000 of their customers to promote a movie. The \$15,000 settlement has been donated to NDVH.

Each Friday, the law firm of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, LLP in New York, NY, has "Jeans for a Cause" where employees pay \$5 for the luxury of wearing jeans and the funds go to a charity. In January, NDVH was the recipient of one week's funds raised.



## On the Lines: HOTLINE

The caller on the line had contacted the Hotline exactly a year earlier. At that time, her situation had seemed hopeless to her, and she had called out to the Hotline Advocates in a desperate attempt to reverse the circumstances that had trapped her and her son in an abusive home.

As a young woman, she had met and married her Prince Charming, an intelligent and successful lawyer from her hometown. When he asked her to relocate with him so that he could pursue a job opportunity, she did not hesitate. She left her family, her social circle, and her own private practice to be with him. A year later, she became pregnant with their son. With the news of her pregnancy, her husband became unbearably controlling and verbally abusive. He would repeatedly call her names. During her second trimester, he threw his first punch.

When her son was born with mental and physical disabilities, she developed an intense need to protect him from his increasingly abusive father. There was little she could do, however, with no career of her own and no way to provide for his special needs. It was then that she first called out for help from the Hotline.

“I can’t remember the person with whom I spoke a year ago today,” the caller said. “But I had to call and thank you, from the very bottom of my heart, for changing my life and for helping me to protect my son.”

Over the course of the year, Hotline Advocates had been able to refer her and her son to shelter and legal advocacy to help with custody issues. They also helped to track down transportation so that she and her son could return to her home state. She was able to rebuild her private practice with the help of her family and friends, who now lived close enough to provide childcare and emotional support.

“Thank you,” the caller reiterated. “Because of you, I finally have my happy ending!”

## On the Lines: HELPLINE

“I keep seeing this whole Rihanna thing on TV, about how she was beaten by her boyfriend Chris Brown,” the caller reflected. “And everyone is hatin’ on her because she went back to him. I don’t judge her. I know how it is. I look at Rihanna, and I see myself.”

The caller was 19 years old. She had been in a relationship with her boyfriend for two years, and she had been living with him for the past six months. He had convinced her that he was the only one who could take care of her. He took it as a personal insult when she tried to help out by getting a job or a car or her own place. Sometimes, she admitted, he got frustrated with her. He would express his frustration by hitting her and choking her.

“I never really thought of it as abuse, though,” she said to me. “He always said that he loved me and that he was sorry, so I always said that I loved him and that I forgave him. If I left - even when I admitted to myself and to my friends that he had hurt me - I always went back. We both have to take blame for our part, you know?”

I told her that his violence was not her fault. He had prevented her from getting a job and a car and an apartment so that he could have control over her actions. The violence was simply another method of control. I assured her that she was a perfectly capable woman. There were always resources available to her, outside of her relationship with him.

“No one has ever explained it to me like that,” she said. “That totally makes sense.” She paused for a moment. “I feel for Rihanna and Chris. I do. I’m just glad that people are hearing their story. This way, people like me - the ones who see themselves in Rihanna or Chris - can start making changes in their own lives. I guess there is always a silver lining.”