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## **Peace It Together Celebration brings World-Renowned Gender Violence Expert to Pittsburgh**

Pittsburgh, PA – February 28, 2014 – *Join Center for Victims and Dr. Jackson Katz as they recognize this year's 2014 Peace Partners.* Together, we will honor individuals and organizations who are actively working to end violence and promote peace in Pittsburgh and throughout Allegheny County. The Peace It Together Awards Celebration will be held at the LeMont Restaurant on Thursday, March 13, 2014 from 5:30 pm – 8:30 PM. Ms. Tonia Caruso of WQED Pittsburgh/Comcast Newsmakers is the emcee of the event. Center for Victims is honoring:

**Youth/Young Adult:** Michael Smith, Student at Woodland Hills High School

**Allied Partner:** The Society for Contemporary Craft for their Enough Violence Exhibit

**Business/Corporation:** First Commonwealth Bank

**Good Samaritan:** Charles Saunders – Caseworker at Goodwill and Longtime Pittsburgh Resident

**Freedom From Silence:** Tony Bock

Distinguished guest speaker for the evening will be Dr. Jackson Katz. Dr. Katz is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in gender violence prevention education. He is co-founder of mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP), the most widely utilized sexual and domestic violence prevention initiative in college and professional athletics in North America and the U.S. Military. He is the creator of the film *Tough Guise 2*, and author of *The Macho Paradox* and *Leading Men*. For more information please see: [www.jacksonkatz.com](http://www.jacksonkatz.com)

“Center for Victims has made a commitment to focus on violence prevention. For the last six years, we have been implementing a teen dating violence prevention program, Expect Respect, in area high schools. For the last two years we have also added the Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) program. This program equips athletic coaches with strategies and resources needed to help student athletes build healthy attitudes and behaviors that prevent relationship abuse, harassment and sexual assault. As I am fond of saying: If we are serious about ending violence, what better place to start than with our young people.”

~ President and CEO Laurie MacDonald

Platinum Event Sponsors are: Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. Additional sponsors include: Cochrane Foundation, Goodwill, Gregori Construction, Dollar Bank, and First Commonwealth Bank.

Center for Victims is the most comprehensive and inclusive provider of services, advocacy, and education for victims of crime in Allegheny County and in Pennsylvania. For more information, visit our website at: [www.centerforvictims.org](http://www.centerforvictims.org)

*(Media welcome - Photo opportunities available.)*