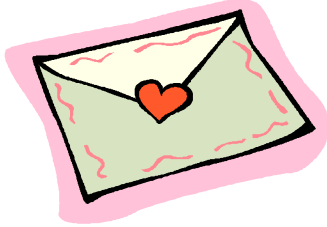


Linkage

Alumni & Staff Newsletter

January, 2004

A Difference Realized



Exactly 1 year ago, we sent out a DifferenceMaker Alert to all of our alumni and staff. We asked everyone to participate in the National Valentines for Soldiers campaign. We wondered how many valentines we could muster in such a short time. Simple math reasoned that the number could be very large.

The response was more than we could have dreamed. We heard from clubs, student councils, church youth groups, key clubs, elderly groups, dance teams, chorus, faculties, dorm floors, service groups ... and the list goes on and on. We received reports from over 130 groups ... from most of our member schools and beyond.

We thought wouldn't it be cool is everyone made 500 valentines each. Well, the smallest number reported was 100. The largest was 3,000.

There were lots and lots of valentine making parties. The one we held with our LI Staff was a load of fun. In just under an hour we made over 500 valentines. It was like being a little kid all over again.

DifferenceMaking is like that, isn't it? I mean while you are doing it with your friends, you have lots of fun and share lots of smiles. And the end result of your efforts is a smile given and received. At this crucial time is there anything more desirable than putting a smile on the faces of the soldiers who are stepping into harm's way for all of

us?

So how many did we make all together? Well, the unofficial total is the best I can do. But unofficially SLTP's outreach caused over 100,000 Valentines to be made !!!!

This past summer, we began making and collecting valentines and dozens of our member schools have been making them since September.

Now it's time to roll up your sleeves and do it again. Check out the next article for the particulars on where to send the valentines.

A Call to Action



Let's give the following National Campaign another SLTP style effort. If each of our 100 member schools gave this a special effort, we could help these guys reach their goal.

And lets keep track -- send me the number you and your school are going to shoot for and then send me the number you actually produce.

Imagine ... what if our 100 schools each did 1,000 Valentines, hmmm ...

Below you will find the Press Release we received seeking help and the information from the website on how to send the Valentines.

Let's share some smiles. Let's make a difference for the soldiers. Let's get busy making Valentines!

The Student Leadership Training Program

Linkage

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January, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT INFO:

Valentines For Troops
Michael Fleming
21516 Golden Triangle Road
Santa Clarita, California 91350
USA
Phone: 714) 381-5652
Fax: 714) 283-4106
Valentinesfortroops@hotmail.com
www.ValentinesForTroops.com

1,000,000 VALENTINES FOR TROOPS CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Dateline: January 14, 2004...Los Angeles,
California

Contact Name: Michael Fleming
Contact Phone: 714) 282-9415 office 714)
381-5652 cell (preferred)
Website: <http://www.ValentinesForTroops.com>

Los Angeles, Ca - January 14, 2004 Three Southern California businessmen who last year distributed over 250,000 Valentines and Valentine emails to U.S. servicemen and women, are beginning their 2003 Campaign with a goal of 1,000,000 Valentines.

Michael Fleming, 51, David Fleming, 48, and Paul Kramer, 38, are asking for Valentines to be mailed to them for distribution to military personnel at bases all over the world. Valentines will be distributed to military bases beginning February 7th. They prefer handmade Valentines. The majority of Valentines that were sent to them last year were done as school, church or youth group service projects.

"Last year we received tens of thousands of Valentines from people in 48 states. They came mostly from churches and schools. The artistic creativity, messages, and prayers on the Valentines were truly heartwarming", said Michael Fleming, campaign coordinator. "I saw many teary eyes on our service members as they would receive them", added Fleming

The Valentine campaign was an offshoot from letter writing campaigns that the Fleming

brothers started during the Gulf War in 1991. "Back then, we had our skating rink customers write letters addressed to "any service member" on stationery we provided, then mailed the letters for them. We received countless responses from service members who appreciated getting the mail from us. With war looming again this is a great time for us to send our support as a Valentine", added David Fleming.

Valentines are to be mailed or delivered to one of three Southern California distribution locations. The main location is Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour, operated by the Fleming's and Kramer. It is located at 21516 Golden Triangle Road, Santa Clarita, Ca 91350. They can also be sent to Skateland in Northridge and Light of the Canyon UMC in Anaheim. Address for all locations appear on their website.

"This year we set up a website that has all the details on where the Valentines can be sent for delivery. We also have a direct email link on our site to Navy ships that have been deployed overseas. Everyone in the U.S. can send a variety of greetings to our service members from our website", said Michael Fleming.

Further details such as mailing addresses and design guidelines can be found on their website at www.ValentinesForTroops.com.

RULES and GUIDELINES:

-- All Valentines will be screened for security reasons, so **DO NOT** place your Valentine in an envelope!

-- We reserve the right to eliminate those Valentines that are political in nature and that do not reflect a positive message in the spirit of Valentines Day.

Handmade Valentines are preferred but please follow the guidelines below.

Final delivery will be made on February 14th. All Valentines received after that date will be held over until next year.

[Click here for mailing guidelines.](#)

GUIDELINES FOR HANDMADE VALENTINES:

Any size Valentine will be accepted.

Please do not use glitter on Valentines.

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Unfortunately, candy or other food items can not be accepted and should not be included or attached to cards.

Military personnel love to communicate with us! You can include your name, address or email address if you so desire.

Photos of the sender, sender's family, church, or classroom participants can add a personal touch to your card. Photos must be appropriate.

The more positive the message the better! Care should be taken not to refer to anything that may cause grief or uneasiness to the military reader. (i.e., I hope you don't get killed or Do you miss your family?)

HOW TO MAIL:

We suggest using the Post Office's [Priority Mail](#). The Post Office even will give you the box!

REMEMBER -- IF MAILING VALENTINES IN BULK BE SURE THEY ARE *NOT* IN ENVELOPES!

Visit the SLTP Web Pages

All the new applications and information about the entire range of our program offerings for 2004 can be found at our newly refurbished web pages.

<http://www.sltp.info>

T-Shirt Ideas



Do you have a design floating around in your head for a tee-shirt that would be perfect for SLTP?

If you do – send it to us. If we select the design, you will earn four campership scholarships for your school

and will receive a special citation at the DifferenceMaker Showcase Conference.

Send to:

Helen Fitzgerald, T-Shirt Designs
108 Observatory Way
Marshfield, MA 02050-4101

The DifferenceMaker Showcase

The *DifferenceMaker*

Showcase is a very special conference.

We believe that service should not be a “have to.” Service should be a “get to.” Service is leadership in action. This conference is about expanding service opportunities, learning how to stage particular events and exploring the possibilities for service inside and outside of school.

The seminar is held on a Sunday afternoon at Nichols, we will bring together all manner of experts to present workshops and to showcase the opportunities to make differences. This year our focus is community activism and we are bringing all manner of community differencemakers to share their ideas and schemes.

Additionally we will be celebrating the nominees for SLTP's Student Leader of the Year and the biggie – SLTP's Lifetime of Difference Awards!!!!

So mark your calendar now – reserve the date. Bring your friends for a spectacular spring afternoon. It's **Sunday, March 28 and it's only \$10!**

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Registration form for the Showcase are available on line and a packet will arrive at your school very, very soon!

What Is Domestic or Dating Violence?

What do we mean when we talk about dating violence? Dating violence isn't an argument every once in a while, or a bad mood after a bad day. Dating violence (or relationship abuse) is a pattern of violent behavior that someone uses against a girlfriend or boyfriend. Abuse can cause injury and even death, but it doesn't have to be physical. It can include verbal and emotional abuse constant insults, isolation from friends and family, name calling, controlling what someone wears and it can also include sexual abuse. It can happen to anyone, at any age, no matter what race or religion they are, no matter what their level of education or economic background.

Understanding what domestic violence is means being aware of the many different things abusers do in order to control their partners. The following checklist of behaviors may help you decide if you or someone you know is being abused.

Does your boyfriend or girlfriend. . .

Use emotional and psychological control?

- * call you names, yell, put you down, make racial or homophobic slurs, or constantly criticize or undermine you and your abilities as a partner?
- * behave in an overprotective way or become extremely jealous?
- * make it difficult for you to see family or friends, or "badmouth" your family and friends?
- * prevent you from going where you want to, when you want to, and with whomever you want to?
- * humiliate or embarrass you in front of other people?

Use economic control?

- * force you to account for what you spend or take your money?
- * prevent you from getting or keeping a job or from going to school?

Make threats?

- * make you afraid by using looks, actions or gestures?
- * display weapons as a way of making you afraid or directly threaten you with weapons?
- * use their anger or "loss of temper" as a threat to get you to do what they want?

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Commit acts of physical violence?

- * carry out threats to hurt you, your pets, family members, friends, or themselves?
- * destroy personal property or throw things around?
- * grab, push, hit, punch, slap, kick, choke, or bite you?
- * force you to have sex when you don't want to or to engage in sexual acts that you don't want to do?
- * deny you access to food, fluids or sleep?

These are some of the most common tactics used by abusive those who try to control their partner, but certainly not the only ones. If your partner does things that restrict your personal freedom or that make you afraid, you may be a victim of domestic violence.

You are not alone. Millions of women and men are abused by their partners every year. The good news is that more resources are available now than ever before to help you be safe. If you answered yes to any of the questions -- it is time to get some help. Talk to your guidance counselor. Talk to your SRO. Talk to an adult at school that you trust. Talk to your parents.

What do you think? What other behaviors or actions do you think could be considered domestic violence?

Conference News

Registrations for all our summer conferences are underway in earnest! There are just over 20 weeks to go. All of the applications are available on line at www.sltp.info

LTC

There are four sessions. Although there are just over 120 slots available at this point.

July 6-10; July 13-17; July 27-31 and Aug 3-7

ALC

There are three sessions and approximately 60 slots available.

July 14-17; July 28-31; and Aug 4-7

TLC

There is only one session and there are 8 slots left.

July 7-10

OTS

There is one session which is open to all forms of officer teams – from full cabinets to co-captains – from clubs to classes to student government. (The team requirement is that there must be at least a pair of officers)

July 1-2