

For Immediate Release June 1, 2007
Burlington, Vermont

White Ribbon Campaign of Vermont Plans Pre-Fathers Day Event, June 15 in Burlington Campaign to Celebrate Fathers Setting Examples for their Sons

The **White Ribbon Campaign of Vermont (WRCVT)** will celebrate fathers working to end men's violence against women at a pre-Fathers Day event on Friday, June 15 at 12 noon on the steps of Burlington's City Hall. The campaign will also announce plans to expand its efforts through 2008.

"Fathers set good examples for their sons, brothers, grandsons and other men in their communities by pledging never to commit violence against women, never to condone it in other men, and to speak up when they see violence against women," said Stephen McArthur of the White Ribbon Campaign of Vermont.

"As we look ahead, our purpose will be to support the work of all the agencies of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence which work so effectively both to protect women and children and to end violence against women," said Stephen McArthur. "We'll engage Vermont men in a collaborative and cooperative spirit, encouraging them to attend hotline and shelter public events, serve as volunteers, and help with outreach and education programs and fundraising.

"We're urging men who have not yet signed the White Ribbon Campaign pledge to join us in this effort," added Ron Redmond, also of the White Ribbon Campaign. "At the event, we'll announce some specific efforts we are undertaking to work against violence against women and to join our voices with women who work in anti-violence programs in Vermont."

Speakers at the pre-Fathers Day event will include Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss, Coach Tom Brennan of Champ 101.3 FM, Burlington Police Chief Tom Tremblay, Karen Tronsgaard-Scott, Director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and UVM Police Chief Gary Margolis. Other representatives of violence prevention and intervention organizations in Vermont will attend. Current members of the WRCVT Organizing Committee include: The Rev. Will Burhans, Kevin Cheney, Paul Hochanadel, Rep. Mark Larson, Gary Margolis, Stephen McArthur, Michael Monte, John Rao, Ron Redmond, Ken Schatz, Tom Tremblay, and Tim Volk.

More than 350 Vermont men signed a pledge to oppose men's violence against women and talk with one other man about that pledge, when the White Ribbon Campaign of Vermont was created in January, 2007.

The White Ribbon Campaign was founded in Canada by men in the aftermath of the 1989 Montreal Massacre when a man chose to murder 14 women and wound 11 others at the Ecole Polytechnique. Canadian men decided it was time for men to stop being bystanders. Over a million men have signed the pledge in over 50 countries.

###

Contact Ron Redmond 802-238-5598 or Stephen McArthur 802-839-0371
EMAIL: info@whiteribbonvt.org WEB: www.whiteribbonvt.org