

Women united to win

Written by Timothy Houston
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March is Women's History month. It is set aside as a time to celebrate those who have gone on before us and inspire those yet to come. This month will feature events and activities that will both educate the mind and uplift the spirit. It is also a time to prepare for the work ahead. Women around the world have overcome great odds, including that of domestic violence. That is why I am happy to be a part of the 5th Annual "Women Unite to Win" Women's Appreciation Banquet schedule to be held Sunday, March 17, 2013. Domestic violence is an ugly little truth that has permeated our community.

We all help to take away its power when we acknowledge its existence and collectively work to eliminate it.

"Women United to Win" is annual event that is focused on ending domestic violence by empowering women. The event is hosted by the National Empowerment Group, Inc. a non-profit organization founded by Dr. Wendy Johnson. The National Empowerment Group, Inc. is a human advocacy organization that provides educational and personal development programs that help youth and adults reach their goals. Five years ago, J. MOST, an accomplished National artist, event promoter and a social service professional, created the "Women Unite to Win" Appreciation Banquet as a vehicle to bring attention to women's issues and highlight the accomplishments of women who have successfully overcome life's challenges.

"Women Unite to Win" is so needed. The numbers associated with domestic violence are staggering. Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime. Most often, the abuser is a member of her own family. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women—more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.

Studies suggest that up to 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually. Everyday in the US, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends. Ninety-two percent of women surveyed listed reducing domestic violence and sexual assault as their top concern.

"Women united to Win" is a strong platform for women who have survived domestic violence to share their story. This year's honorees, Veronica Gottwald, Devonna Pittman, Christine Ransom and Antrinita Wright, will have an opportunity to empower and educate the community about this devastating epidemic. They will focus on how domestic violence impacted their lives and how they struggled to survive this traumatic experience. Dr. Oliver Williams, Executive Director of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, and a Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota, will serve again as the Master of Ceremonies. As we shine light on this issue, we empower other women to seek help in ending this generational cycle.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us work collectively to eliminate domestic violence from all communities. Every hand and heart will be needed to ensure its success. Come out and support this worthy cause as it will be an evening of encouragement, empowerment, education and networking. To obtain more information, please contact J. MOST at 612-237-5118 or via email at jmostmusic_lyrics@yahoo.com

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Timothy Houston is an author, minister, and motivational speaker who is committed to guiding positive life changes in families and communities. To get copies of his books, or for questions, comments or more information, go to www.tlhouston.com.