

New Website Provides Employers Much-Needed Resources to Recognize and Respond to the Impact of Domestic Violence in the Workplace

While 21% of full-time employees are impacted by domestic violence – only 4% of workplaces provide training on this issue.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Feb. 26, 2007 /PRNewswire/ – The Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence (CAEPV) is expanding its website (<http://www.caepv.org>) to provide information, tools, research, and best practices to assist employers to help respond to the impact of domestic violence on the workplace. The information on “www.caepv.org” can help employers of any size provide a safe and supportive work environment for employees who may be enduring intimate partner violence and abuse. The extensive upgrade of “www.caepv.org” was made possible by a grant from Verizon, in order to ensure that employers can easily implement workplace programs to help their employees and create safer and more productive workplaces.

The site provides employers with the following:

- The business case for understanding domestic violence as a workplace issue – including the latest statistics on health care costs, productivity, absenteeism, and workplace safety.
- Simple steps companies can take to address the issue proactively - including sample policies, articles and training materials.
- Best practices and program ideas from employers across the US and around the world - including Kaiser Permanente, Liz Claiborne Inc., and Verizon Wireless.
- The latest research and findings on domestic violence and its impact on the workplace - such as a comprehensive inventory of US workplace prevention practices created in partnership with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CAEPV.
- An RSS feed to inform subscribers when the site is updated with the latest information on domestic violence and its impact on the workplace.

A national benchmark survey of 1200 employed adults released by CAEPV in October 2005 found that intimate partner violence has a wide and far-reaching effect on Americans’ working lives – with 21% of those surveyed identifying themselves as victims of domestic violence. In October 2006, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 24% of workplace violence incidents reported by employers in the past year were domestic violence-related. However, only 4% of workplaces in the US provide any kind of training to employees regarding domestic violence and its impact on the workplace.

CAEPV Executive Director Kim Wells said, “Because domestic violence’s impact does not stop at the office front door, America’s employers need to take action – by putting in place accessible programs and policies for colleagues and victims alike. Fortunately, effective programs are easy to establish and the information available on CAEPV’s new website will help employers begin to take the steps needed to create a safe and supportive work environment.”

Wells noted that the CAEPV website is considered by many across the US and around the world to be the central resource for information and resources related to domestic violence and the workplace. She said, “It is vital we are responsive in our efforts to assist employers anywhere at anytime – and thanks to Verizon, we are able to do so through the updated technology and resources of our website.”

The Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence (CAEPV) is a leading force in the fight against intimate partner violence and its effects on the workplace. It is the only national organization of its kind founded by business leaders and focused on the workplace. Since 1995, the Alliance has brought together dozens of progressive companies who exchange information, collaborate on projects, and use their influence to instigate change. The Alliance offers extensive research, policy knowledge and issue expertise to the business community, including training, program guidance, and crisis consultation - with programs designed to make the workplace safe and to prevent intimate partner violence from impacting the workplace. For more information, visit <http://www.caepv.org>.

Verizon delivers technology that touches life. The Verizon Foundation uses that technology and its financial resources to improve literacy and K-12 education, help families victimized by domestic violence, and improve the delivery of health care. For more information on the foundation, visit <http://www.verizon.com/foundation>.