



# The Power of Advocacy



*SafeHouse of Seminole*

*January-February 2010 Issue 2*

## Executive Director's Point of Perspective...

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### Constant messaging: curious or controlling?

MTV sponsors a new webpage for teens: "A Thin Line", that addresses technology and teen relationships: [www.athinline.org](http://www.athinline.org) I find that technology is a beautiful thing. It allows us to see pictures of our family and friends who live miles away, it lets us talk to them without seeing them in person and it gives us better and faster ways to have all the information we could ever want at our fingertips. However, technology can be a tool for dating abuse and teens need to know the difference. In a healthy relationship, partners trust each other and give each other room to breathe, enjoy time with friends and family, and chill out. In an emotionally abusive relationship, one partner tries to control the other, often by demeaning them, making them feel worthless, and trying to control their actions and decisions by constantly texting, IM'ing, or emailing to keep tabs on or harass them. A person's school work, social life and overall health can be seriously affected. Constant messaging has been described as a big flashing neon sign that says, "I'm trying to control you!" Let's help guide the teens in our lives to find partners who send out a different message loudly and clearly: **"I respect you!"**



*~Jeanne Gold, Esq.*

Talk to the  
teens in your  
life...



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### Vision:

A community of healthy, violence-free relationships and families. SafeHouse develops, promotes and enhances creative prevention and effective intervention initiatives, which reduces the amount of violence in intimate relationships; with the ultimate plan to bring people together to build healthy families in Seminole County.

[www.safehouseofseminole.org](http://www.safehouseofseminole.org)