

## Power of Women Brings ‘Remote Control’



*At a performance of “Remote Control,” SWiC recognized board member and North Schuylkill teacher Ann Marie Barket for years of service to both SWiC and students. From left are Darla Troutman, SWiC; Michael Evans, North Schuylkill Guidance Counselor; Ms. Barket; DET actor Timothy Hoover; Janel Firestone, SWiC; Amber Shamonsky, SWiC; Jocelyn Madden-Edwards, SWiC; actor Casey Preston; Melissa Bell, SWiC intern; and actor Rydia Vielehr.*

SWiC’s first annual Power of Women team enabled the agency to bring the play “Remote Control” to twice as many schools as expected!

From September 8-11, “Remote Control,” a play about dating violence, was performed in five area high schools – Blue Mountain, Marian Catholic, North Schuylkill, Pottsville, and Schuylkill Haven – as well as Penn State Schuylkill Campus. A powerful introduction to three of the performances included a personal testimony by SWiC board member Katy Heckman, whose high school friend lost her life when she left an abusive husband.

Produced by [Deana’s Educational Theater \(DET\)](#), “Remote Control” is an interactive play that explores the relationship between two characters, who are dating, and their friend, who becomes an involved bystander when abusive behaviors emerge. Using an imagined “remote control” device, the narrator stops, rewinds, and replays various scenarios while the actors incorporate the audience’s observations and suggestions into the action of the play. DET was formed following the death of a young woman named Deana who was a victim of dating violence.

Due to drastic funding cuts in recent years, efforts to reach young people to prevent dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking have been almost eliminated. Bringing programs such as “Remote Control” to Schuylkill County enables SWiC to spread awareness about the dynamics and dangers of dating violence to young people in an effort to prevent this crime and to ensure that victims are aware of help available.

**THANK YOU** to the amazing women on SWiC’s first Power of Women team and to those who supported their efforts for helping us reach 3,000 teens and adults with this important message! Chaired by SWiC board member Angela Groody, this team demonstrated the “Power of Women” by raising funds and by spreading awareness about domestic violence to ensure that no woman is left trapped in a dangerous relationship. SWiC will recognize the women on this team at a reception in October, which is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



*Following the performances, the actors discussed their characters’ motivations and the outcome of the play with the audience. Actors from left are Timothy Hoover, Rydia Vielehr, and Casey Preston.*