December 10, 2003

City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
P O Box 5035
London Ontario N6A 4L9

Attention: Community and Protective Services Committee
Re: Request for Support, “The Face of Violence In Our Community” Forum

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to appear as a delegation to address the Community and Protective Services Standing Committee to enlist the assistance and support of the City of London for our anti-violence initiative being organized by the District School Councils of both local School Boards and our related forum on February 6th and 7th 2004. Attached please find a detailed outline of our formal request for support.

I view our anti-violence program as an exciting and worthwhile initiative on many levels. With the commitment and dedication of the District School Councils on both Boards, we have the opportunity to reach families in over 245 schools across the counties of Elgin, London, Middlesex, and Oxford. Any assistance that the City of London is able to extend will be invaluable. In particular, we are hoping the City will contribute towards the costs of the Friday evening presenters and actively promote the program through its publications, website, Ward Councillors, and any other appropriate venues.

The City of London will appear as sponsors, with the City’s permission, on all promotional material sent to the families and publicly distributed. They will also be recognized and thanked for their support at the Forum.

Correspondence and responses should be sent to me directly. As I am a parent volunteer, there is no mailbox or provision for me to receive mail or calls at our Board office. My full contact information is:

Linda Steel
859 Notre Dame Drive
London, ON N6J 3C9

Phone: (519) 681-5697
Fax: (519) 681-0535
Email: lssteel@ldcsb.org.ca

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Yours Truly,

Linda Steel
Chair, The Face of Violence in the Community Committee, London District Catholic School Council

Londond District Catholic School Council

Montigny Fenney Centre - PO Box 5474, 167 Elmwood Avenue, London, Ontario, CANADA N6A 4X9 (519) 643-2088   (c) 2001
December 10, 2003

THE FACE OF VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Request for Municipal Support: The City of London

London District Catholic School Board (LDCSB) District School Council is hosting, in partnership with Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) District School Council, a forum for families and educators on Friday, February 6th in the evening and all day Saturday, February 7th.

We are soliciting sponsors and community support to reduce the costs of attendance for families. Violence affects everyone; however, it often is more prevalent in less fortunate, poorer areas and families. We hope to ensure that the costs of attendance do not restrict the attendance of those most affected by violence in the community.

The forum is unique. Initiated by the London District Catholic School Council, the Board approved the committee and conference as the first of its kind, organized by parents for parents under the LDCSB Board umbrella, with parents and/or parent organizations responsible for covering all costs. Thames Valley District School Council was then invited to participate as partners in promoting and organizing the program through the public school communities. Both Boards cover Elgin, Middlesex, London, and Oxford counties. Therefore, it is a significant initiative being undertaken by parent volunteers. The purpose of the forum, called "The Face of Violence in Our Community", is:

- To provide answers for parents on how to talk with their children, and from whom they can seek help - particularly important for young families, families that are new to the country or new to the area.
- To identify and discuss root causes for violence in our communities
- To discuss and develop next steps on how our communities can work to reduce violence; provide programs that parents and educators can take back to their schools and organizations
- To discuss and develop ongoing cooperative violence prevention programs between District School Councils and community service organizations

Friday, February 6, 2004:

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Location: St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School, 1360 Oxford St. West, London

The Friday evening format will be focused on families and all family members are encouraged to attend. Presenters have been booked for each age group of children (childcare for pre-schoolers) while adults participate in a facilitated full panel presentation with representatives from various
organizations such as Children's Aid, St. Leonard's, London Police Services, Social Workers, and the Women's Community House. Panel topics will deal with a broad base of violence related issues: the effects of domestic violence on families, media violence, isolation, racial & gender issues, and more. All age groups will come together at the end of the evening to discuss solutions and next steps they can bring back and implement within their own communities/groups and develop action plans for future/ongoing community violence programs through the school systems.

**Saturday, February 7, 2004:**

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  **Location:** St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School, 1360 Oxford St. West, London

We are extremely pleased to present: Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, an internationally recognized scholar, author, soldier, and speaker who is one of the world's foremost experts in the field of human aggression and the roots of violence and violent crime. Col. Grossman will present a comprehensive 8-hour session including the root causes of, and effective measures to prevent and reduce violence. He has made presentations to the RCMP and was originally recommended to the committee by an RCMP parent member. Col. Grossman has made revolutionary new contributions to our understanding of the root causes of the current "virus" of violent crime that is raging around the world, and the process of healing the victims of violence. He has served as an expert witness and consultant including UNITED STATES vs. TIMOTHY MCVEIGH; helped train mental health professionals after the Jonesboro school shootings; and involved in counselling or court cases in the aftermath of the Paducah, Springfield, and Littleton school shootings. He has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his writings and research. Please visit his website: <<www.killology.com>> for full information on Col. Grossman and his studies.

**Subsequent Activities:**

In addition to suggestions and decisions made at each session regarding next steps, attendees will fill out questionnaires and evaluations. A report will be prepared by forum organizers and distributed to all School Councils itemizing the strategies developed, suggestions provided, and the results of the evaluations.

Our short-term goal is to create awareness, partnerships, and develop strategies that can be immediately implemented; and to build stronger ties with/involves the counties as part of the whole school district for both Boards. Our long-term goal is to establish an ongoing, family based, anti-violence program and network that works with both local school boards through their School Councils and community partners. We are asking for your support and assistance in our first step towards both goals.

Affordable admission prices will directly impact on the success of this event. Based on targeted attendance of 500 at each session we will be charging $10.00 per person/$25.00 per family for the Friday evening and $15.00 per person for the Saturday presentation. (The Saturday session is not suitable for elementary school children, and there will be no childcare provided.) Therefore, we are hoping to raise $15,000.00 in corporate donations representing approximately 50% of the projected costs.
**Estimated Costs Associated with the Forum:**

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<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>COST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keynote Speaker</td>
<td>Lt. Col. David Grossman, 8-hour presentation, $3,500 plus expenses estimated at $1,650 – $5,100 US converted to Canadian dollars = $6,652.00</td>
<td>$6,652.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panel Presenters</td>
<td>Estimate 6 at $100 honorarium each, Friday evening</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's Presenters</td>
<td>Primary: $450; Junior: $300; Intermediate &amp; Secondary: $300, Friday evening</td>
<td>$1,050.00</td>
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<td>Food &amp; Beverages Friday night</td>
<td>Estimate 500 in attendance at $10.00/each for pizza, juice, soft drinks &amp; bottled water, Friday evening</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Beverages on Saturday</td>
<td>Estimate 500 in attendance at $20.00/each for coffee, tea, &amp; cookies at breaks, sandwiches and vegetable trays at lunch, juice, soft drinks, and bottled water.</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<td>Promotion and Printing</td>
<td>Posters and flyers, in all schools (approximately 245 combined both Boards) and in the community</td>
<td>$3,500.00</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>Pens, pencils, guest register, postage, table cloths, glasses, serviettes, etc.</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>estimate</td>
<td>$27,252.00</td>
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All volunteers, we are clearly committed to this issue and this community project. We believe in parental responsibility and involvement as examples for our children. Witnessing the same principles extended by the City of London, local businesses and organizations directly to the school communities serves as an excellent example for our students. We are requesting any assistance you may be able to provide in supporting and promoting this event.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Yours Truly,

Linda Steel
Chair/Organizer, The Face of Violence in the Community, LDCSB Executive Member, London District Catholic School Council

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Phone: (519) 681-5697
Fax: (519) 681-0335
Email: l.steel@ldcsb.on.ca

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TOTAL P. 06
P. 06