

For Immediate Release  
June 9, 2011

## **Human Options' Men's Task Force Receives 2011 Ambassador of Peace Award**

**Orange, Calif.** — The Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County recognized The Men's Task Force of Human Options during their 15<sup>th</sup> annual Ambassador of Peace Awards held on June 3, 2011 at The Turnip Rose.

Organized in 2002, the Men's Task Force is a dedicated group, led by a small steering committee of men who have committed to taking a stand against domestic violence.

Men's Task Force leaders Steve Churm and Gary Van Arnam were on hand to accept the award last week. Steve Churm, Men's Task Force Chair, is a member of Human Options' Board of Directors and has led community education efforts against domestic violence through his role as publisher of OC Metro and OC Family. He is a second generation leader in the fight against domestic violence and has served on the board for four years.

Gary Van Arnam was president of the Human Options board when he conceived of the idea of men taking a stand against domestic violence nine years ago.

The nominations sought out outstanding individuals actively engaged in the prevention of violence in Orange County, but awarding a group was a first.

Since 2004, Human Options' Men's Task Force has mobilized 100 men each year to take a stand against domestic violence in our community. The men each make a financial contribution and add their names to a powerful full-page ad which appears annually in OC Metro and OC Family.

The task force took the lead in inspiring Human Options to create a special education/prevention program for teen athletes called *Jason's Story*. Community educator Robert Diaz speaks to over 13,500 teens a year. He tells the dramatic story of Jason, a star athlete who abused his girlfriend, and outlines the development of the relationship and consequences of the abuse. Robert's dramatic presentation and the way in which he weaves his own personal experience into the story make a powerful impact on teen audiences.

In addition to community education and fundraising, the task force hosts an annual picnic for Human Options' clients where children get to have fun and meet gentle men who care.

### **About Human Options:**

For 30 years Human Options has been working to stop the cycle of domestic violence. The organization's vision is a community in which every woman and every child is safe in their own home every single day. Last year the organization provided services and prevention programs to over 20,000 individuals. Independent research studies have proven the effectiveness of Human Options' intensive programs in freeing families from domestic violence. The organization provides a full continuum of services to stop the violence – from prevention and early intervention programs to emergency shelter and long-term transitional housing and follow up support.

## **About The Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County:**

The Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County (VPCOC) was established in 1996 and remains the only countywide affiliation of businesses, community organizations, public and private agencies and individuals promoting violence prevention through a public health approach in Orange County, California.

For further information call 949.737.5242 or visit [www.humanoptions.org](http://www.humanoptions.org).



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of Orange County  
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Human Options  
Men's Task Force  
2011