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CUTTING OUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A BEAUTIFUL THING

“Just a little bit off the top” is usually reserved for the barber’s chair but salon professionals can also take a “little bit” to accomplish a lot. Cameo College raised more than \$10,000 for two local domestic violence shelters and the Cut-It-Out program at their annual ICONS hair show.

“This donation means victims of domestic violence will continue to have access to vital resources in their hour of need,” says Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff. “Domestic violence shelters provide food, emergency housing, and emotional guidance to those who may not have anywhere to go or anyone to turn to.”

The Utah Attorney General’s Office launched Cut-It-Out in Utah in May 2005. Cut-It-Out is a free program that provides domestic abuse training for salon students and professionals in Utah.

More than a thousand people packed the Murray High School auditorium on November 19 for a hair competition and fashion show. Ten percent of the proceeds from the event went directly to Cut-It-Out to support the program's education efforts. Two local domestic violence shelters adopted by Cameo College through the Cut-It-Out Adopt-a-Shelter program split the remainder of the proceeds. The YWCA and South Valley Sanctuary each received \$4550.

The Adopt-a-Shelter program partners salon professionals like Cameo College with domestic violence shelters in their area. They work together on fundraising events to insure the needs of victims are met.

“We affect individuals like very few professions,” says Brenda Scharman owner of Cameo College of Essential Beauty and 2008 ICONS hair show organizer. “We become close friends, mentors and somewhat counselors to these individuals. We are not trained professionally to advise them in a proper manner, and that’s where Cut-It-Out comes in. It teaches us where our boundaries are as beauty professionals, and the proper means of helping these individuals.”

More information on “cutting out” domestic violence in Utah can be found at:

- * www.attorneygeneral.utah.gov/CUTITOUT.html
- * www.cutitout.org
- * www.udvc.org