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AVANCE Launches Family Violence Prevention Documentary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (April 24, 2008)— AVANCE-Houston hosted its annual Parent Conference last weekend, April 19-20, at the George R. Brown Convention Center for parents of children enrolled in AVANCE's Head Start program. Presentations were given to parents on topics ranging from prevention of domestic violence to responsible parenting. AVANCE introduced the documentary, *The Brutal Truth Project: Protecting the Family from Violence*, as a course for participants.

The Brutal Truth Project identifies the signs of child abuse and educates parents on successful ways to prevent violence in the household. Parents learned the difference between child abuse, neglect and the symptoms of sexual abuse. The documentary has been broadcasted on PBS Channel 8 and now offers a translated version in Spanish.

Dr. Keith Robinson, the producer, host and presenter of *A Brutal Truth* stated that public awareness acts as the strongest catalyst toward the prevention of family violence. "Our mission is to show families that there are alternatives to violence and that changed behavior is possible with an empowering television message", he said.

AVANCE's mission is to improve child well being through family learning and parental involvement in children's education. AVANCE, meaning "advance" in Spanish, has served the educational needs of thousands of lower income families since 1988.

AVANCE provides classes in parenting, adult literacy, fatherhood, healthy marriage, ESL, computer skills and GED for parents throughout Harris County, conducted alongside classes for their children. AVANCE operates 13 Head Start Centers and plans to incorporate it's family & adult education programs in these centers to create comprehensive, neighborhood-based learning programs for entire families.

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Producing 'The Brutal Truth'

Carrie Woliver and Dr. Keith Robinson, producers of the documentary, 'The Brutal Truth Project,' were featured guests at the recent Parent Conference hosted by AVANCE-Houston and held at the George R. Brown Convention Center. During the event, various presentations were given to parents of children enrolled in AVANCE's Head Start program. These ranged on topics from prevention of domestic violence to responsible parenting. 'The Brutal Truth Project' identifies the signs of child abuse and educates parents on successful ways to prevent violence in the household. Parents learned the difference between child abuse, neglect and the symptoms of sexual abuse.