

AVANCE-Houston launches family violence prevention program

AVANCE-Houston, Inc hosted a May 21 brunch to mark the launch of The Brutal Truth Project: *Protecting the Family from Violence*, a program that the agency will offer in English and Spanish to educate communities and families about the critical issue of violence.

During this event, AVANCE facilitators conducted a brief demonstration with parents in a classroom setting to show the guests how the class will be taught using the training materials, which include the facilitators' manual and parents' manual developed by AVANCE, and the video "The Brutal Truth Protecting the Family from Violence."

The video was co-produced by Carrie Woliver and Dr. Keith Robinson, who were present for this event, along with Rick Christie, director of the film.

Other special guests included the event co-chairs, Linda K. May from The Simmons Foundation; AVANCE Board Treasurer Tanya Allen-Easter; Judge of 309th Family District Court Meca Walker; Judge and candidate for Family Violence Court Lynn Bradshaw Hull; and Dr. Glenn Wil-

erson president of Adults Relating to Kids group.

Representatives from various foundations, agencies and the Houston Independent School District were also in attendance.

The demonstration focused on the topic of "bullying," as well as the following topics: *Shaken Baby, Sexual Abuse, Self Esteem, Discipline, Abuse vs Neglect, Temper Tantrum, When You Blow It* and *Good Parenting*.

"Statistics show that 35 percent of threats to children occur online, and 58 percent of these kids are not telling their parents," said Dr. Robinson. "How can parents help their children if they don't know that this issue is affecting them That is AVANCE's challenge, to inform and educate them."

Parents were given tips on ways to identify if their children are being bullied or are bullying and how to address and prevent the issue from occurring.

AVANCE recognizes that family violence is an ongoing problem throughout the community, and the agency welcomes other providers to join this campaign to reduce family violence.



Pictured from left, AVANCE board treasurer Tanya Allen-Easter, AVANCE executive director Jose Villarreal, Brutal Truth Project

co-producers Dr. Keith Robinson and Carrie Woliver, and Rick Christie, director of the film.