

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM), a national effort focused on advocacy and education to prevent dating violence before it starts. It is also a time to promote safe and healthy relationships by talking about healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviors, recognizing the warning signs, connecting adolescents to support and identifying innovative strategies to prevent dating abuse. In recognition of TDVAM, the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) wants to raise awareness by hosting a [What is Love](#) art contest, February 8-24, 2021.

The What is Love art contest is open to all Iowa High School students, ages 14-18. Participants can submit a piece of artwork that expresses their idea of "What is Love?" into two categories:

- 2D Art: painting, sketch, short essay, photography, digital or mixed media
- Video: spoken word poetry, skit, song or short film (maximum 3 minutes)

Three entries in each of the two categories will receive a cash prize. First place will be \$200 and the second and third runner up will each receive \$50. All participants will have their artwork highlighted on ICADV's digital and print platforms, awareness campaigns and a variety of materials. Award winners will be announced and notified on Friday, Feb. 26.

By raising awareness about teen dating violence – which affects 1 in 3 teens in the United States – parents, youth, families and communities can work together to help teens and young people have safe and healthy relationships.

To sign up and submit a piece for the What is Love art contest, visit <https://www.icadv.org/what-is-love-contest>, or contact Lindsay Pingel, director of Community Engagement for ICADV, at [lindsayp@icadv.org](mailto:lindsayp@icadv.org).

Attached are two promotional fliers – English and Spanish – that highlight additional details and information about the contest. Please feel free to share.

### **About the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) is the leading voice to end intimate partner violence in Iowa. Through our network of 22 statewide victim service programs, we provide comprehensive services to anyone who has been a victim of a violent crime – before, during and after. We take a survivor-centered approach to victim services and believe community-based agencies and interventions, healthcare, educational and government systems should work together, centering the voices and experiences of those most vulnerable in our communities, to enhance safety for survivors and their families. When that happens, everyone has the ability to reach their full potential, thrive and live a life free from violence ... *to the Last Girl*.

### **Lindsay Pingel**

Director of Community Engagement

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