

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Families First wins North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Grant**

**Whiteville NC;** Families First, Inc. announced today that is has received a \$25,000 Ribbon of Hope grant from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation to help with the presentation of the SAFE Dates program. This program is an evidenced-based program that is provided to all 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Columbus County and Whiteville City Schools.

SAFE Dates is a nine-part curriculum that deals with attitudes and behaviors associated with dating abuse and violence. It's designed to raise awareness of dating violence, including what constitutes healthy and abusive dating relationships, and to teach students the causes and consequences of dating abuse.

"Families First is very excited to have been awarded this grant. Without funding from this Foundation and others, we would not be able to provide this effective curriculum to students," states Vickie Pait, Executive Director of Families First. "Staff and others who were involved in creating and testing these programs believe that these programs are a strong step in the right direction to stop intimate partner violence."

Families First, Inc. has provided the Safe Dates program to 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Columbus County since the fall of 2012 and has recently expanded the program into Bladen County Schools. Evidence gathered since the beginning of this endeavor show a substantial increase in knowledge of dating violence and prevention strategies.

#### **About Families First**

Families First, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit that has provide domestic violence and sexual assault programming including shelter in Columbus and Bladen County. The program began services in 1995 and since that time has served over 14,000 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

#### **About The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation**

The [North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation](http://www.ncgskfoundation.org) is an independent self-funding 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting activities that help meet the educational and health needs of today's society and future generations. Since its creation in 1986, the Foundation has granted over \$61 million to support North Carolina projects and programs that emphasize the understanding and application of health, science and education at all academic and professional levels. Visit the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation at [NCGSKFoundation.org](http://www.ncgskfoundation.org) and follow it @ncgskfound