

# Special pilot program has impact on boys' attitudes

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trated covers with tennis stars.

The man is an action shot during a match; the woman is in a bathing suit.

Over the weeks they saw the boys' attitudes change. A poll showed that many changed what they thought about domestic violence and what men can do.

The boys at Loyola organized a school vigil Dec. 6 to mark the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, where 14 women were killed in a shooting at the École Polytechnique—an event the boys hadn't even heard of before the program.

Other students organized hashtag campaigns and a fundraiser for Halton Women's Place.

Male-ally programs are not new and have long been recommended those working on the front lines fighting

violence against women.

For instance, last year the Canadian Football League's Hamilton Tiger-Cats partnered with Interval House for the Be More Than a Bystander campaign.

The partnership came after the Tiger-Cats faced massive backlash for hiring and then swiftly firing Art Briles as an assistant coach.

Briles was ousted from his previous head coaching job at a Texas university after a sexual assault scandal.

Internationally, there is the white ribbon campaign—a movement of men and boys working to end violence against women and girls that began in Toronto in 1991.

But what seems to be growing is public interest, said Sexual Assault Centre of Hamilton and Area (SACHA) director Lenore Lukasik-Foss.

"There is a more recep-

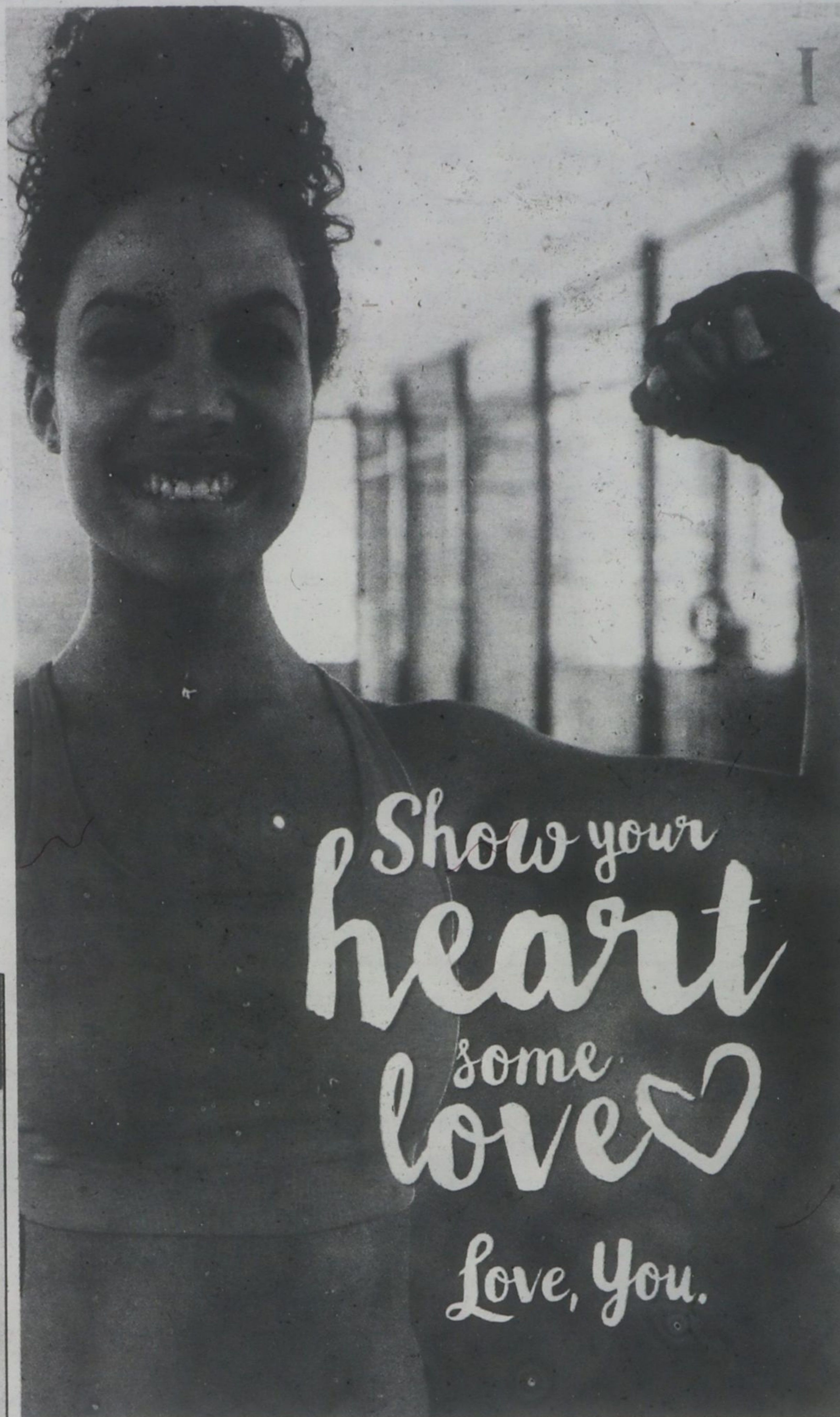
tive audience and understanding of the importance," she said.

Unfortunately many community agencies just don't have the funding for this type of programming, including SACHA where Lukasik-Foss said she'd love to implement a program.

Halton Women's Place public education program is funded through a private donation.

Both Duguid and Smith are also volunteers with a John Howard Society program that helps men who have been violent in domestic relationships.

These men ask many of the same questions as the teen boys about what it means to be in a healthy relationship, Duguid said, adding he can't help but wonder what these men's lives would be like if they'd had access to male-ally education when they were young.



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