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'Chain' for change: New CD brings message about domestic violence

September, 2009 Posted in Business

By Mary Owen

A local entrepreneur has just released a CD single that inspires a change in social issues.

Tammi Burns is a domestic abuse survivor and owner/founder of Break the Chain® Apparel in Lyons. Burns wrote the lyrics to the song, "Chain," about three years ago that her friend, Stephens Middle School teacher Jon Chinburg, and his nephew, Tony Stovin, and his Portland-based band, Intervision, put to music.

"He had the idea, 'sticks and stones can break my bones.' His wife heard it and added, 'but sometimes words are worse.' That's the first words of our song and is now our theme," said Burns in an earlier Our Town interview.

Burns started a unique clothing company in 2006, bringing attention to the growing problem of domestic abuse and other social conditions, including violence and addiction.

She started her business with the popular, fast-selling "No violence" T-shirt, the mainstay in her line of "clothing with a voice," a tool to help fund social programs.

"You can be involved simply by wearing a T-shirt," Burns tells people. "The person reading it may be the one needing the message or know someone who needs it."

Giving further voice to her message, the song was launched during a concert at The Oregon Garden this summer. Chinburg, a drummer for the local band, The Flextones, said he will continue to perform the song during the band's shows to spread Burns' message.

"The Flextones sang it live at the Three Dog Night concert in July," Burns said. "It was very well received."

Burns believes music is "the universal language," and hopes to raise awareness about domestic violence and child abuse worldwide with the CD.

Chinburg and fellow teacher, Kimberly Garlock, also co-produced the music video, which can be seen at www.BreakTheChainApparel.com/musicvideo.php.

"We've had many positive reviews about the video and the song," Burns said. "It touches people differently. It's doing exactly what we want it to do."

The Chain CD, which costs \$5 plus shipping, appeals to a broad range of age and socio-economic groups, according to Burns.

"The one thing we want to stress is that this message of hope and change needs to be available to everyone, whether you listen to it on YouTube or purchase the CD," Burns said.

"It is an important message that needs to be spread across the world that there is hope, and that you are not alone."

Grant for Change nomination
 Tammi Burns' Break the Chain/Project Change Reaction has been nominated for the Nau Company's Grant for Change. The public is invited to help select grant finalists. To participate, or to find out more go to www.nau.com/collective/grant-for-change or visit www.breakthechainapparel.com

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