

“Domestic Violence: Where It Starts & Where It Can End: An intimate evening with Tanya Brown, sister of Nicole Brown Simpson”

Jewish Federation & Family Services, Orange County (JFFS), knows the importance of talking about difficult topics. For Domestic Violence Awareness Month, they presented an important and critically-needed event to educate the community and offer resources to victims of domestic violence. *“Domestic Violence: Where It Starts & Where It Can End: An intimate evening with Tanya Brown, sister of Nicole Brown Simpson”* was an evening dedicated to sharing knowledge with the community about domestic violence and to breaking the silence about the issue. The evening began with a resource fair featuring programs that provide services in Orange County, including many that specialize in treating domestic violence survivors. Dr. Lauren Gavshon, Interim President and CEO of JFFS, opened the speaking portion of the night with local statistics on domestic violence that highlighted the vital importance of holding the event. Speakers from Irvine Police Department and Human Options (a comprehensive resource center and shelter for domestic violence) shared stories of working locally with survivors and what motivates them to do the work they do. The audience was shown strong public service announcements focusing on the campaign to end domestic violence. When Tanya Brown took the stage, the audience did not know what to expect. She proceeded to speak about her personal story of loss, mental illness, domestic violence and recovery – all the while weaving in the message of hope and resilience. She spoke candidly about her suicide attempt, her previous relationship with an abuser when she was only a teenager, and of how she has moved toward advocacy and education instead of hate and anger. Her latest book ([The Seven Characters of Abuse](#)) educates readers about all types of abuse, not only physical abuse. Tanya has taken the notoriety of her name, and her sister’s infamous story, to bring awareness and empowerment to the community in a very real and tangible way. Following the presentations, the audience engaged in a Q&A with the presenters and a discussion emerged about on the stigma surrounding male survivors of domestic violence

JFFS is committed to bringing information, services and hope to the community at large, and encourages the Jewish community to discuss challenging topics. As the host of this program, JFFS was able to make new connections for referral sources for clients and educate attendees about all types of abuse, how to get help, and, most importantly, how to stand up against domestic violence and say, “Not one more.”