

Local dads take stand against family violence

BY VIANNA DAVILA
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

A group of San Antonio fathers wants to provoke men — to take a stand against violence.

The San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign's "Know More — No More" Stop the Violence Rally happens Saturday at the Plaza Avenida Guadalupe, 1327 Guadalupe St.

The rally runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., followed by a social service resource fair until 3 p.m.

Organizers planned the rally in response to a number of high-profile child abuse cases and deaths in the city and state over the past year.

"Primarily with this rally we hope to accomplish I guess what we call a time for healing," said Frank Castro, with the San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign. "It's a time to reflect on the tragedies that happened last year and to also provide an opportunity for those who have been caught up in the cycle of violence to heal."

The San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign is a partnership of seven organizations to promote the role of fathers in the family.

District 7 Councilman Julian Castro and actor Jesse Borrego are among Saturday's keynote speakers.

Other speakers include Patri-

cia Castillo, director of the San Antonio P.E.A.C.E. Initiative, Samuel Herredia from Hombres de Palabra, and Rob Mueller from Time to Heal.

The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative focuses on domestic violence prevention, but Castillo said it's an issue that goes beyond just women.

"This is an issue that impacts every community and everybody in that community," Castillo said.

"I think there are lots of men who don't want other men to be violent," she continued. "But I think that our communities have just not provided the forums for that kind of message to be delivered."

Following the rally, agencies and counselors that specialize in children, family and advocacy will provide information about resources available in the community.

Fathers and other attendees will be encouraged to sign a large banner and pledge their stand against violence.

"We all have to be accountable for our community," Castillo said. "We all have to be responsible for our children."

For more information, call (210) 227-3463.

vdavila@express-news.net