

## **Breaking The Silence - The DVD (22 min)**



### **Discussion Guide**

**Introduction:** This film is a service project intended to sensitize educators and others to mental health needs and concerns of students and their friends.

**Suitable for:** parent groups, congregations, employers, schools, teacher training, service providers, clubs, home associations, youth

### **Suggested Questions/Prompts After Viewing**

1. What data/information is most surprising?
2. Which information is most helpful for parents?  
...for school administrators? ...for teachers?
3. Is this information suitable for teens?

## Re: School Scenario by FRIENDS

1. What concerns does the teacher, Miss Vee, express to Maria? (get homework in, enter college)
2. What action did she take? (Call parent) What else could she have done? (advise Maria of intent to call home, referred to counselor or team)
3. Can you explain the reaction of Maria's mother? (stress over son, menopause, culture, overwork)
4. How did Julie show her friendship? (asked questions, listened, referenced her own problems, non-judgmental, found adult to help)
5. What is your reaction to how Ms. Roberts handled the meeting with Maria? What could have been done to ensure Maria's safety? (assess her needs, determine if suicidal, contact school nurse)

6. What can Ms. Roberts do if Maria does not show up for the follow-up conference? (Check if she is absent, call home, call Maria, contact Julie)
7. Projection: imagine possible scenarios when Maria gets home. Options: brainstorm, role play.
8. What implications do the film and discussion have for you or the group? What was learned? What action could be taken by each character? By the school? **(Record responses.)** Ask someone to copy and present comments to you or to the program sponsor.

**\* Please fax comments and the discussion leader's report to 561-395-3063. For information call 561-866-1850.**

NOTE: Notarized permission was obtained from all students and parents before producing this film.

*Thank You*

## **Produced by**

Boca Raton's Promise - The Alliance For Youth  
[www.bocaratonspromise.org](http://www.bocaratonspromise.org) - 561-866-1850

## **In Cooperation With**

Boca Raton Community Middle School  
City of Boca Raton, Sugar Sand Park Community Center  
FRiENDS of Breaking The Silence  
Palm Beach District Schools  
The Education Network for Lifelong Learning

## **Sponsors**

Boca Raton Regional Hospital  
Jacobs Charitable Trust  
The Schmidt Family Foundation

## **Local Resources**

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - 561-392-7877  
Mental Health Association of PBCounty - 561-832-3755  
National Alliance For Mental Illness PBCo - 561-588-3477