



COMMUNITY OVERCOMING
RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WILLIAM GAY OF THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS TO DELIVER KEYNOTE SPEECH AT SPEAKUP!,
CORA'S 2017 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS LUNCHEON**

*One voice in the NFL rising above the others, William Gay has made it his life's mission
to raise awareness of - and help end - domestic violence.*

SAN MATEO, CA – CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse) champions the cause to end domestic violence with SpeakUp!, a Domestic Violence Awareness Luncheon on March 23rd. The keynote speaker will be William Gay, cornerback for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

William Gay was only 7 years old when his world changed forever. His mother was attempting to leave an abusive relationship with William's stepfather when the man shot and killed her before killing himself. William and his brother were raised by his grandmother, but the pain and emotional scars from his childhood trauma haunted him, leading him down the wrong path as a teenager. Finding football proved to be his saving grace. He received a scholarship to the University of Louisville, and in 2007, William entered the NFL as a fifth-round draft pick for the Pittsburgh Steelers. One year later his team won the Super Bowl.

The pain of that tragic day never left William. Despite his incredible professional success, William believes his most important work is done off the field at domestic violence shelters. When he's not winning Super Bowls, he uses his position to draw attention to the issue of intimate partner abuse. He's lent his voice to the NO MORE campaign and gladly pays a large fine each year for wearing purple cleats during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. He is truly Speaking Up!

CORA is the only agency solely dedicated to victims and survivors of domestic violence in San Mateo County. SpeakUp!, CORA's Domestic Violence Awareness Luncheon, will take place on Thursday, March 23rd, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront, located at 1800 Old Bayshore Highway in Burlingame.

Proceeds from the event support survivors of domestic violence.

Individual tickets begin at \$100 and tables begin at \$1,500. Sponsorship levels are still available for the event. To learn more or buy tickets, please visit www.corasupport.org.

The event is sponsored by the Popovits Family, with other sponsorships from DLA Piper Silicon Valley, Tinyprints, Hanson Crawford Crum Family Law Group, Seeley Family Law Practice, Fenwick & West, Shopkick and The Morrison Foerster Foundation.

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About CORA

CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse) provides safety, support and healing for individuals who experience abuse in an intimate relationship, and educates the community to break the cycle of domestic violence. The only agency in San Mateo County with the sole purpose of serving victims and survivors of domestic abuse, CORA provides confidential emergency, intervention and prevention services, including the County's only emergency shelters, as well as a 24-hour hotline, an emergency response program, therapeutic counseling, legal services and supportive housing for survivors. Services are free of charge and are open to anyone needing help. Services are available in English and Spanish, as well as many other languages. To learn more, visit www.corasupport.org. You can also see the latest information by following CORA on twitter ([@ENDtoDV](https://twitter.com/ENDtoDV)) and Facebook ([@facebook.com/corasupport](https://facebook.com/corasupport)).