

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Storm, 717-805-0222
Contact: Kim Weiss, Publicity, 800-851-9100, ext. 212

Blackout Girl: Growing Up and Drying Out in America

From first time author, Jennifer Storm, comes a riveting memoir of what happens to a teenage girl whose life is awash in alcohol, drugs and the trauma of rape. Storm's inspiring book **Blackout Girl: Growing up and Drying Out in America** will be released by Hazelden Publishing in February of 2008 and is currently available on amazon.com for pre-orders.

Growing up near Allentown, Pennsylvania, Storm was already stealing sips of her mother's crème de menthe at age six. By age 13, she was binge drinking and soon found herself anesthetized to many of life's harsher realities, but it didn't save her from becoming further victimized.

For Storm, passing out and blacking out became indistinguishable. Dating and rape seemed to go hand in hand. To cope with the added pressures of young adulthood, drugs were soon added to the mix - anything to dull the senses and quell the confusion of growing up gay in perky, straight 1980s America.

However, in the end Storm comes through her ordeal to succeed, despite all the odds. Her story proves that forgiveness and redemption are more than possible through sobriety and a commitment to keep putting one foot in front of the other.

Blackout Girl's key features for readers:

- Presents a lively look at American teen culture and the pressure to engage in high-risk behaviors.
- Inspires readers on how to regain one's life after addiction and trauma seemed to have cost a person everything.
- Offers a realistic look at how teens and young adults can begin taking honest responsibility for their sexual orientation.
- Illustrates how forgiveness of self and others plays a key role in rebuilding one's life.

About the Author:

Jennifer Storm was born and raised near Allentown, PA. She graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Services and a Master's Degree in Organizational Management from The University of Phoenix.

In August 2002, Jennifer joined Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) as the organization's executive director. Before joining VWAP, Jennifer was the first full time director of the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition. During her tenure, the Pennsylvania legislature passed one of the most inclusive hate crime statues in the country. Later that year, Governor Edward G. Rendell appointed Jennifer as a commissioner to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

In the past five years Jennifer has done over 100 media & radio interviews, including frequent appearances on ABC, FOX, NBC, NPR, CBS and PBS as a spokesperson for victim's rights.

In 2002, Jennifer also publicly debated Oliver North live on his syndicated talk show Common Sense with Oliver North regarding gays in the boy scouts. She has been profiled and/or appeared in; We Magazine 2006, Women Magazine 2006, Central Penn Business Journal 2005, Rolling Stone Magazine 2002, TIME Magazine 2007 and many local & statewide newspapers.

*Review copies of **Blackout Girl** are available from the author and publisher for feature stories and book reviews. For a review copy, please contact Jennifer Storm at 717-805-0222 or visit www.jenniferstorm.com.*

#