

Press Release: Dear Gabe,

(Press Release)

You recently visited my high school, Tanque Verde. Your story basically saved my life. Early this week, I was thinking of ending my life. Not due to bullying but because of other reasons. You showed me that life is what you make it and that it can/will get better. You have given me such a hope and a will to see my bright future. Thank you so much for speaking to us and may you continue spreading your inspiration across the US, across the world. You are a true hero.

posted by Anonymous on March 4, 2011 10:22 PM

CONTACT:

Rhonda K. Hillman 810-373-4043

Fentonrh@aol.com

GABRIELLE FORD SHARES HER INSPIRING LIFESTORY IN

STILL DANCING: ONE DREAM, ONE DOG, ONE STAGE

RIDDING THE WORLD OF BULLIES ONE SCHOOL AT A TIME

Gabrielle Ford never dreamed that a long-eared coonhound could change her life. But that's just what happened when she cared for her ailing pet Izzy and found the voice to help others in need as a nationally-known motivational speaker. Today Gabe's incredible story has drawn media attention from *The Today Show*, *Cosmopolitan Magazine* and *Animal Planet*, among others. Her 2009 autobiography, **STILL DANCING**, shares the inspirational details from her life as a way to encourage others that anything is possible.

As a child, Gabrielle loved dance and dreamed of becoming a prima ballerina. That dream was shattered by a rare genetic neuromuscular disease, Friedreich's Ataxia, that would eventually place her in a wheelchair. Gabe not only struggled with the devastation of the illness, but endured constant and cruel bullying from classmates. The constant torment took her on a path of depression and isolation.

That all changed when Izzy, a long-eared coonhound pup, entered Gabe's life. Izzy became Gabe's best friend and constant companion. When this special friend mysteriously developed a condition mirroring Gabe's, Gabe re-entered the world to get Izzy the best treatment available.

Speaking out for the voiceless Izzy gave her the courage to speak out for another voiceless group: the thousands of children bullied in American schools every day. Through countless personal trials, Gabe found her way back to the stage as an outspoken advocate against school bullying. In addition to reaching thousands of students in schools across the country, she was also a keynote speaker at various conferences such as the International Reading Association's Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona in 2009. Her dedication even earned her the Community Hero Award in 2009 from the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the NASCAR Community Hero Award at Michigan International Speedway 2010. Upcoming engagements include the Michigan Reading Association's Annual Convention in Grand Rapids Michigan in March 2011.

STILL DANCING is a rallying cry for recognizing bullying's lifetime impact and nurturing the self-worth of every child. Packed with fun and poignant anecdotes from Gabe's adventures – such as bargaining with her family for a new pet and exploring New York City in a wheelchair – her story is sure to bring smiles and inspiration.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Gabrielle Ford resides in Fenton Michigan with her family, canine friends Lindsey Bell and Dominic, and feline friends Sweetie and Bob. For more information on Gabe, to book an appearance, or to purchase her book, please visit www.gabeandizzy.com.

STILL DANCING

**Still Dancing: One Dream, One Dog, One Stage
Ridding the World of Bullies One School at a Time**

Gabrielle Ford

Gabe and Izzy Publishing

November 2009 / Hardcover / Original / Non-Fiction

\$24.99 / ISBN-13-978-0-984176-0-5

Author Residence: Fenton, Michigan