

Generations Against Bullying (GAB) is proud to bring you our first Newsletter. We will be sending out our newsletter quarterly. Included in our newsletter will be folks from many walks of life. You will hear updates from our Peer Ambassadors, Dr. Sheila Gissibl, Attorney James Hall, Board Members, and of course a special message from our National spokesperson, Miss High School America, Annie Jorgensen. This month marks the one-year anniversary of GAB'S first movie night event. Our movie night event was held with guest speaker Gilbert Brown, Green Bay Packer 1996 Super Bowl Champion. We had over 500 people attending this first event, along with TV Channels 4, 6, 12 and 58. Our accomplishments this first year have exceeded our expectations. By all means, it hasn't been easy; we've all shared many challenges along the way.

Bullying has been a problem from generation to generation. As Abraham Lincoln once said, "He will have to learn, I know, that all people are not just-that all men and women are not true. Teach him that for every scoundrel there is a hero, that for every enemy, there is a friend. Let him learn early that the bullies are the easiest people to lick". This quote from Abraham Lincoln reminds us that bullying is an age-old problem and challenges us to be heroes and friends. We must remember we all have a hero in us, and it's time to bring that hero out!

We know that there has been an increase of information about bullying, books, workshops etc. We could fill up a schoolhouse with Bullying Intervention and Prevention Programs. We've had a 200% increase in bullying information in the last five years, but the problem continues to get worse. Why? We wish we had a simple answer, but there is no easy answer to this problem?

- Cyberspace has now become a leading venue for bullying; many cyber-bullies think that bullying others online is funny. It has become alarmingly common among adolescents and teens.
- Over half of adolescents and teens have been bullied online, and about the same number have engaged in cyber-bullying.
- Well over half of young people do not tell their parents when cyber bullying occurs.
- Today, 90% of 4th through 8th graders report being victims of bullying.
- We know "bullycide" is climbing at an alarming rate. Bullying, aggression, and violence have become the leading cause of death between the ages of 10- 14.
- American schools harbor approximately 2.1 million bullies, and 2.7 million of their victims. (Dan Olweus, National School Safety Center)
- 87% of students said shootings are motivated by a desire to "get back at those who have hurt them."
- 86% of students said, "other kids picking on them, making fun of them, or bullying them," causes teenagers to turn to lethal violence in the schools.
- 61% of students who shoot others have been victims of physical abuse at home.
- Harassment and bullying have been linked to 75% of school-shooting incidents.

GAB is a unique hands-on, non-profit organization, striving to combat bullying. GAB has dedicated individuals who have the passion and commitment to provide the tools necessary to end the epidemic of bullying. We know that every community has their own set of challenges. We know that schools are inundated with the daily tasks of providing education for our children, and alone, cannot provide all the resources necessary to combat this problem. We must work together if we are going to provide our children with a safe and healthy education environment. How can any child learn, when they are afraid to go to school everyday.

Our children are the most important asset to the solution. Our Peer Ambassador Program needs to become part of every high school across our nation. Our youth must be given the tools necessary to become the upstander and not the bystander. We know that it's going to take all of us to help combat bullying. It's going to take the children, parents, teachers, administrators, law enforcement and local businesses to help educate our communities.

"TOGETHER WE WILL CHANGE THE CULTURE OF LEARNING"

Sincerely,

Linda Lee

President of Generations Against Bullying