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SAVE Offers Back to School Safety Tips and Programs: The Allstate Foundation Partners With SAVE to Help Curb Violence as New School Year Begins

Raleigh, N.C., (August 15, 2008) — The Allstate Foundation presented \$25,000 to Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) to support SAVE chapters in elementary, middle and high schools in Charlotte (the birthplace of SAVE) and other urban areas of North Carolina in their efforts to prevent violence. Past Allstate Foundation assistance has benefited schools in North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Utah.

The role of SAVE is becoming increasingly more important as crime and violence in our schools continues to erode the teaching and learning process. This past school year, sixteen violent deaths have occurred nationwide and another 65 non-death high profile violence incidents took place including shootings, stabbings and riots (National School Safety and Security Services, 2008). It is an extremely scary and unsettling situation for students, parents, and community members alike.



SAVE students educate, engage, empower and encourage peers to prevent violence in their schools and communities.

SAVE Back to School Safety Tips for Parents:

- Check student records at school.
 - Is your contact information correct?
 - Do they have your work and cell phone number?
- Discuss with your child the school's weapons policies.
 - Stress that no weapons can be brought onto school campus, including pocketknives, sling shots, and BB guns.
 - Talk to them about what to do if they find a weapon. Under no circumstances should they touch the weapon. Find a responsible adult and tell them.
- Contact the school for a copy of their emergency policies. Review with your student what will happen in an emergency.
 - Where will students be located?
 - When and where will parents reunite with children?
- Contact the school for a copy of their safe school plan.
 - Do they have a plan that has been practiced?
 - What measures are being taken to ensure that your child's safety is a school priority?
- Discuss with students the importance of sharing information.
 - Stress to them that if they hear students talking about being destructive or hurting someone, that it is OK to tell a trusted adult - parent, teacher, counselor, law enforcement officer, principal.
 - Encourage your child to join the SAVE chapter at school or to work to establish a SAVE chapter.

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"Kids today have to spread the news about how to handle their problems without violence and Allstate Foundation support has helped to provide our SAVE chapter with the tools needed to do that," said Jonai Lloyd, student at Laney High School in Wilmington, NC. "This generous grant from The Allstate Foundation will assist students in finding real solutions to the issues of violence that they face each day," stated Dr. Pamela L. Riley, Executive Director of SAVE.

With support from Allstate agents and employee volunteers, SAVE chapters in the Charlotte and other urban areas of North Carolina area will be able to provide leadership school-wide to ensure that all students will be encouraged and empowered with healthy life skills while being engaged in educational activities and opportunities to promote safety. SAVE believes that every student should be able to attend a school that is safe and secure, free of fear and conducive to learning. Through The Allstate Foundation grant, participating SAVE chapters will receive:

- printed classroom resource materials including lesson plans and awareness brochures, affiliate chapter certification and membership cards, access to restricted site information via the National SAVE Web site, which includes the most up-to-date information and direct technical assistance.
- special recognition opportunities, including highlights on SAVE members, advisor/chapter.
- ongoing updates on cutting-edge research on such topics as bullying, harassment and intimidation will be provided in schools.
- eligibility to apply for SAVE mini grants for local school safety activities.

"At Allstate, we feel that community support is a very important extension of our corporate values and business goals," said Julianna Sparks of Allstate. "Teaching conflict resolution skills to children and teens is essential to the overall quality of life for young people. SAVE is exemplary of the type of non-profit organization that provides the proper direction to the students involved in their program, and we are glad The Allstate Foundation can partner with them to help build safe and vital communities."

For more than 19 years, SAVE, a student-led nonprofit organization, has educated and empowered young people in schools and community-based organizations to prevent youth crime and violence. SAVE's efforts engage close to 200,000 student members in schools and communities in 46 states, decreasing the potential for violence in K-12 schools and communities by promoting meaningful student involvement, education, and service opportunities.

If you are interested volunteering, starting or supporting a SAVE chapter in your school or community or in obtaining additional safety tips for parents and students, visit the SAVE website at www.nationalsave.org or call toll free at 1-866-343-SAVE.

About SAVE

SAVE started at West Charlotte High School (NC) in 1989 following the tragic death of a student who was trying to break up a fight at an off-campus party. Students met first to console each other, then as an organization to promote violence prevention and to work together to prevent future incidents from occurring. SAVE provides education about the effects and consequences of violence and engages students in safe activities that benefit them and their community. SAVE currently has over 1,700 chapters in 46 states, with nearly 200,000 members. The National Association of SAVE is a student-run, student-initiated violence prevention organization that operates out of Raleigh, NC. Additional information on SAVE can be reviewed at www.nationalsave.org or calling toll free 866.343.SAVE.

About the Allstate Foundation

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The Allstate Corporation. The Allstate Foundation partners with non-profit organizations on community initiatives that promote "safe and vital communities," "tolerance, inclusion, and diversity" and "economic empowerment." Teen driving and empowering victims of domestic violence have been priorities for the Foundation since 2005. For additional information, visit www.allstate.com/foundation.