

National Association of
Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)
Youth Voices... Grown-Up Choices Initiative

Sponsored by the:



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FOUNDATION

**NORTH CENTRAL REGION
2008-2009**



Dr. Pamela L. Riley, Executive Director
National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)
322 Chapanoke Road, Suite 110 ~ Raleigh, NC 27603
Office Phone: 866-343-SAVE or 919-661-7800
Cell Phone: 336-601-1093
FAX: 919-661-7777
Email: drpriley@nationalsave.org
www.nationalsave.org

Youth Voices... Grown-Up Choices Initiative North Central Region Continues Partnership with SAVE

General overview of the program and how it addresses the Allstate Foundation's focus area(s):

- The National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere is addressing two Allstate Foundation focus areas, Safe and Vital Communities and Tolerance, Inclusion, and Diversity, by teaming up with the North Central Allstate Foundation to continue and enhance the integrated program called the **Allstate Foundation SAVE: Youth Voices...Grown-Up Choices! Program**. This initiative will engage and empower young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent violence in their communities and their schools. Special emphasis was given to Back to School Safety, America's Safe Schools Week, National SAVE Day, and National Youth Violence Prevention Week.
- This grant from the Allstate Foundation is supporting the efforts of students and staff at 12 schools and/or youth-serving agencies in the North Central Region.
- **Media:**
 - PRESS RELEASE: [Townhall II SAVE Chapter Planning Youth Violence Prevention Activities](#) ~ April 16, 2009
 - PRESS RELEASE: [Fort Wayne SAVE Planning National Youth Violence Prevention Week Activities](#) ~ March 23, 2009
 - PRESS RELEASE: [Eagle's Nest Youth Center SAVE Planning National Youth Violence Prevention Week Activities](#) ~ March 23, 2009
- **Results:**
 - [Eastern Greene students making a difference through violence prevention efforts](#) (07/24/08)
 - [Organization promotes literacy in barbershops to prevent violence](#) (04/29/09)
 - SAVE chapters involved **4 local Allstate representatives** in student activities (see below).
- **Website Recognition:**
 - <http://www.nationalsave.org/main/Allstate.php>

Highlights and successes of the program

- **Sponsorship of North Central Schools** - Twelve schools are being sponsored for school safety activities in the North Central regions, focusing on Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. Number of people impacted by the program:

School	# Youth reached	Ages
Eagle's Nest Youth Center	50	8-17
Eastern Greene Elementary Eastern Greene Middle School	946	6-14
Edgewood Junior High School	619	11-15
Friends of Bethany	50	6-12
Hamtramck Youth Council	2000	11-17
Leggett Elementary/The Chapel	260	5-12
Marion County Health Department Violence Prevention Program	450	9-14
SAVE Fort Wayne	1000	9-18
Stonybrook Middle School	1150	11-14
Townhall II	100	14-18
West Gary Lighthouse	450	5-14
TOTAL	7075	

➤ **RESULTS:** To date, chapters have received:

- ✓ **Chapter Support and Technical Assistance**, including certification and student membership cards, regular updates on cutting-edge research related to tolerance, inclusion, diversity, bullying, harassment, intimidation in schools, and other topics, and access to a members-only section of the National SAVE website with the latest information and technical assistance.
- ✓ **Educational Materials and Activity Guides**, including *The SAVE Essentials Manual*, a 250+ page resource book with lesson plans, handouts, brochures, and videos that provide violence prevention, crime prevention, and conflict management information to help students become peer mentors and trainers. Also included were student-developed elementary and secondary lesson plans on tolerance and diversity and a Banner, highlighting the SAVE/Allstate partnership, for display at chapter events and meetings. Guides for Back to School, America's Safe Schools Week, and National SAVE Day activities were provided.
- ✓ **Resource Information and Special Opportunities** were made available to chapters. These included information on mini-grant funding opportunities for SAVE chapter activities, award and recognition opportunities that publicize and reward excellent work by SAVE members, advisors, and chapters, as well as additional resource material on safe school activities and events including tolerance, inclusion and diversity. Allstate Foundation sponsorship of SAVE chapters was highlighted in newsletters, via publication of resource materials and on the National SAVE website.
 - <http://www.nationalsave.org/main/newsletter.php>
 - <http://www.nationalsave.org/main/Allstate%20North%20Central.php>
- ✓ **Mini grants** – Chapters received their \$250.00 mini grant funds for violence prevention activities in their school and community.
- ✓ Fall mailing to all SAVE Chapters in New Jersey, including a Back-to-School Safety Activities Brochure, ideas for America's Safe Schools Week and National SAVE Day activities, was distributed in mid August.
- ✓ Each participating school has been encouraged to involve local Allstate representatives. National SAVE assisted in connecting SAVE chapters with local Allstate agents.

UPCOMING:

- Fall mailing to all SAVE Chapters in Indiana, including a Back-to-School Activity Brochure ideas for America's Safe Schools Week and National SAVE Day activities will be distributed in mid August.
- Press releases for fall SAVE chapter activities will be distributed.
- Chapters will be encouraged to continue and enhance relationships with local Allstate Agents
- Chapters will continue to conduct violence prevention activities in their schools and communities.
- Ongoing recognition in SAVE's Newsletters and on SAVE's website.

Award Recipients & Highlights of Activities

Eagle's Nest Youth Centre – Fort Wayne, IN

The Eagles' Nest Youth Centre's After-School program held SAVE activities daily and included role playing, poster making, group discussions and speakers on violence prevention. Their basketball team also benefits youth by teaching character building, sportsmanship, anger management and team participation. SAVE T-shirts were the team uniform.

The Eagles' Nest SAVE Chapter impacted the students at the Centre by teaching them how to be productive members of society. Their families and community members were also positively affected by the activities and team spirit of the basketball team.



Eastern Greene Elementary School – Bloomington, IN

The Eastern Greene Elementary SAVE chapter had a full year with special activities each month. The fall SAVE membership drive was accented by anti-violence skits. November showcased "Don't be a turkey – Violence is Never the Answer" day where SAVE hosted morning announcements and made classroom visits throughout the day. Planning for the SAVE Summit in October 2009 was a focus of spring activities and the SAVE Rockathon in April was a big success. Eastern Greene's SAVE chapters continue to impact the population of the school and community with its strong message of violence prevention.

Allstate Agent Involvement: Local Allstate agents were invited to SAVE rallies and SAVE activities held at the school.

Eastern Greene Middle School – Bloomington, IN

The Eastern Greene Middle School SAVE chapter had a very busy year. In October SAVE posters and morning announcements accented the school wide SAVE membership drive. There were activities based on promoting tolerance for differences in November and in December the emphasis was on anti-bullying. Planning for the fall 2009 SAVE Summit in Charlotte began in January and "Freeze out the Violence" day was held in February.

In the spring, National Youth Violence Prevention week was celebrated with violence prevention announcements, posters and reminders that created awareness throughout the school. Also held in the spring was the chapters' 5th annual Rockathon, with 82 participants that raised funds for SAVE.

As Eastern Greene's schools serve as a hub of this small, rural community, the SAVE chapter's message of violence prevention has greatly impacted the school's population and its families by involving everyone in activities and events. Ideas are being formed on ways to connect with other area schools in the next school year.

Allstate Agent Involvement: Local Allstate agents were invited to SAVE rallies and SAVE activities held at the schools.

Edgewood Junior High School – Ellettsville, IN

Edgewood Junior High SAVE chapter participated in several national activities including National Youth Violence Prevention Week and No Name Calling Week. During Red Ribbon Week, awareness bracelets were distributed and an anti-violence poster contest and a Ghost Out activity were conducted. The peer mediation program was also highlighted during this week. The Ghost Out activity involved SAVE members painting their faces white, not speaking for the entire day, and wearing a sign explaining how they died at the hands of violence. During National Youth Violence Prevention Week information was shared on peer mediation, anger management and anonymous hotlines.



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Community service projects are well received by the community. Awareness regarding the peer mediation program has brought about the self-referral of many students to participate.

Friends of Bethany – Ft. Wayne, IN

Spring activities for the Friends of Bethany SAVE chapter included the Boys Books and Barbershops Project. Two youth chapter members read monthly to other youth at the barbershop. The Great American Clean-Up allowed youth to provide community service as an alternative to gang involvement and misuse of time. During the monthly May meeting of the Friends and Families as Partners mentoring program youth were given awards and personal poems honoring mothers for their investment of life skills, examples and instruction were shared.

Youth reading to younger children impacted both groups by improving reading skills and causing some readers to consider a career in teaching. Youth gained a sense of accomplishment by participating in the cleanup project and citizens voiced their sincere appreciation of the effort.

Hamtramck Youth Council – Hamtramck, MI

The Hamtramck SAVE Chapter operates under the Hamtramck Youth Council, a city-wide organization that serves youth between the ages of 5 and 17 years. In 2009, six SAVE membership drives were held, one at each middle and high school, one at the Homecoming Challenge Day event and one at the city-wide Teen Summit. SAVE materials were distributed to classrooms and afterschool programs. During National Youth Violence Prevention Week, SAVE partnered with local neighborhood watch group to educate families and held a candlelight vigil.

Over 2,000 youth have been impacted by the Hamtramck SAVE program. Membership drives brought membership to over 200 and there have been zero reports of school fighting among members.

Leggett Elementary/The Chapel – Akron, OH

The SAVE chapter at Leggett Elementary School operates a monthly reward system for students who display good character and behavior. Almost half of the student population qualified for the award this past school year. Activities included bingo, a SAVE dance, SAVE movie night, American Idol night and SAVE sport days. Seventy new students have already signed up for next year's SAVE chapter.

It is believed that the impact of SAVE has helped to reduce the number of suspensions and violent behavior and create a more positive atmosphere. More parents want to be involved with the chapter, and many participate in the SAVE Walk in May.

Marion County Health Department – Indianapolis, IN

Activity highlights for the Marion County SAVE Chapter include the Rockathon fundraiser and career day field trip in October. Professional photos taken on career day of SAVE students wearing SAVE merchandise will be used to recruit new members and spread SAVE awareness. Two SAVE students hosted a call-in radio show in December and an anti-violence poster contest was held in March. The "You-Cards" activity empowers students to strengthen their own character traits by recognizing positive character traits in peers.



Over the school year, SAVE student members experienced growth in self-esteem, leadership ability and social skills, while increasing their knowledge in areas of gun safety in a training event focused on principles and practices.

Allstate Agent Involvement: Local Allstate agent, Mr. Adrian Smiley, served as a judge in the annual Anti-Violence Poster Contest.

SAVE Fort Wayne – Ft. Wayne, IN

SAVE Fort Wayne activities this past school year include focuses on Weapon Safety in November, Reaching Out through Community service in December and Good Character Traits in March. A PSA on Relationship Violence, a Teen Driving Seat Belt Check and a focus on internet safety helped round out spring events.

SAVE Fort Wayne has impacted the school and community by bringing an awareness of service learning. A weekly TV show that highlights the on-going service project "Boys, Books and Barbershop and Girls, Books and Beauty Shop" focuses on the area's Family Literacy Program, which serves thousands in the Fort Wayne area.



Stonybrook Middle School – Indianapolis, IN

SAVE chapter activities this year for Stonybrook Middle School include the Rockathon in October and the SAVE display in the main school hallway. The Homeless Outreach Project in December was conducted with the Marion County Health Department SAVE Chapter and involved distributing food and clothing to homeless men and women in Indianapolis.

Students have responded very favorably to the SAVE program at Stonybrook. Interest in becoming a SAVE member has increased and the principal commented that overall school climate has improved. SAVE members have become more aware of the role they can play in community service activities as a result of their participation in the Homeless Outreach Project.

Townhall II – Kent, OH

The SAVE chapter at Kent Roosevelt High School (Townhall II) participated in 2 main activities this spring. Creating a team in the Annual Bowl Against Abuse fundraiser for the Children's Advocacy Center raised money to help accomplish the Center's mission of improving community response to child abuse and

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neglect. The Teen Relationship game table in the lunchroom was conducted to raise awareness of healthy relationships. Both activities raised awareness and will help support children suffering from abuse and neglect. Students participated actively in the relationship game and showed an interest in the subject. Many students have expressed an interest in becoming a SAVE member next year.



Students at Crestwood Middle School were also selected to participate in SAVE. Training focused on media awareness, sexual harassment, healthy relationships and communication. The SAVE students have been challenged with creating a way to promote the SAVE message of nonviolence to the entire student body. Crestwood Middle School Newsletter article: <http://www.nationalsave.org/PDF/townhall%20article.pdf>

Allstate Agent Involvement: Local Allstate agents, Chase Speagle and Vince Sperra, attended the SAVE lunch table event in May 2009 and brought prizes for the students. They also contributed to answering the questions posed on the Teen Relationship cards.

West Gary Lighthouse – Gary IN

The West Gary Lighthouse SAVE members participated in No Name Calling Week by facilitating team building exercises and a creative expression contest at the school. During National School Violence Prevention Week, students, met with state representatives to discuss violence in schools, decorated the halls with positive signs and quotes and sponsored a Stop the Violence Sock Hop for grades K-3.



SAVE activities received good comments from school staff and students. Students receiving peer mediation reported that issues had been resolved. The chapter is currently making plans to expand peer mediation teams and promote Back to School safety during the next school year.

Allstate Agent Involvement: Mr. Mike Murphy, an attorney with Allstate, spoke at the school on May 29, 2009.

Thank you again to the Allstate Foundation for their continued support of the activities of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) chapters in the North Central Region of the United States. With your assistance we are making great strides in reaching our vision: Schools and communities will be safer and more secure, free of fear, and conducive to learning as a result of students being actively involved in meaningful violence prevention efforts.

*Respectfully submitted by:
Dr. Pamela L. Riley, Executive Director
June 17, 2009*