

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

**Sponsored by the:**



**Allstate**<sup>®</sup>  
FOUNDATION

**NEW JERSEY  
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](mailto:drpriley@nationalsave.org)  
**[www.nationalsave.org](http://www.nationalsave.org)**

# Allstate Foundation New Jersey

## Youth Voices... Grown-Up Choices Initiative

### 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 New Jersey 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 supported the efforts of students and staff at 5 schools in New Jersey.
- ❖ **Media Coverage** - Press releases were issued to all major media outlets in New Jersey:
  - PRESS RELEASE: [The Allstate Foundation Partners With SAVE to Curb Violence in New Jersey](#) ~ October 1, 2008
  - PRESS RELEASE: [Mahwah SAVE Chapter Planning Youth Violence Prevention Activities](#) ~ April 16, 2009
  - **Results:**
    - [Allstate supports school's anti-violence initiative](#) (2/21/08)
    - [Somerset County Allstate agents give back to community](#) (3/03/09)
- ❖ **Website Recognition:**
  - <http://www.nationalsave.org/main/Allstate.php>

### Highlights and successes of the program

- **Sponsorship of New Jersey Schools** - Five schools are being sponsored for school safety activities in New Jersey. Number of people impacted by the program:

School	# Youth reached	Ages
Immaculata High School	850	14-18
Lincoln High School	1000	13-17
Mahwah High School SAVE	1500	6-18
Monongahela Middle School-Peace & Respect	663	11-14
Texas Avenue School	600	6-14
<b>TOTAL</b>	4613	6-18

- **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

**National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere**  
866-343-7283 ~ [www.nationalsave.org](http://www.nationalsave.org)

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.
  - ✓ **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.

## **Award Recipients and Highlights of Chapter Activities**

### ***IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL - Somerville, NJ***

SAVE activities included a Ropes Course in September which provided team building exercises for the students. In October a workshop on Dating Violence by the Resource Center for Women and Their Families was presented to SAVE members and Mix It Up Day in November helped instill tolerance and understanding. The Rockathon in December raised funds for the Chapter and in March, Youth Violence Prevention Week brought opportunities to raise awareness with public service announcements each morning.



SAVE students are currently involved in the Trauma Teddy Project, in which teddy bears built by students are distributed to children who have experienced trauma. This event is scheduled for the Fall of 2009. Chapter members are also in the process of creating mentoring skits for middle-schoolers in the community.

Through SAVE Chapter projects, the school and community has been exposed to the growing issue of school violence and ways to combat it. Students have been encouraged to be open and understanding. Feedback has been extremely positive from SAVE members, non-members, faculty, staff and parents. Youth in surrounding communities will be impacted by Teddy Trauma and mentoring service project skits.

**Allstate Agent Involvement:** Allstate agent **Cyndi Polanco** assisted with funding for past Teddy Trauma projects and spoke for the chapter's executive board earlier this year.

### ***LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - Jersey City, NJ***

Lincoln High School's SAVE Chapter worked this school year with other clubs and activities to have a more broad-based approach to the delivery of the anti-violence message. This year, SAVE wanted to have a multicultural series stressing the importance of tolerance. And once again, the club had a kick-off at our annual fall festival and continued its very popular family game nights at the high school.

Make a Difference Day in October was all about rallying against all forms of violence. An Erase Graffiti painting project earned community service credit for students. A morning announcement in different languages emphasized the diversity of the student body at Lincoln High School.

The SAVE chapter continues to collaborate with the school and community by initiating activities that promote a safe environment for students. A community liaison person is on board to assist with spreading the mission and goal of SAVE within Jersey City. School administration has been approached about assisting with further awareness and membership growth.

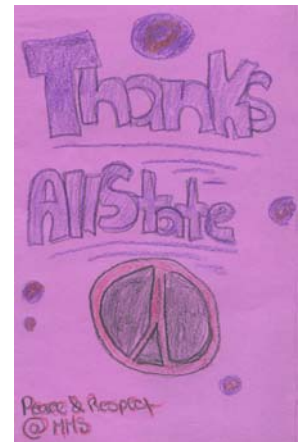
### ***MAHWAH HIGH SCHOOL - Mahwah, NJ***

This high school SAVE chapter had a very active year. In September SAVE officers joined the annual community celebration "Mahwah Day" by manning a table to attract middle school students and parents with a creative craft and parent brochure about National SAVE. During School Violence Prevention Week in October, violence awareness activities went on during lunch times in the cafeteria and other gathering areas, throughout the week. The highlight of the week was a visit to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in a local elementary school to present a program on violence awareness.

In December the club's service project was a focus on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the week of December 8-12, 2008 was declared a "Celebration of Human Rights at Mahwah High School". SAVE members worked on posters that took phrases from the United Nations Declaration and displayed them throughout the high school. In March students attended the American Conference on Diversity at Fairleigh Dickenson College to learn more about social and racial discrimination.

### ***MONONGAHELA MIDDLE SCHOOL, PEACE & RESPECT - Sewell, NJ***

Monongahela's SAVE chapter activities include a monthly Peace and Respect meeting to work on projects and activities for the school and community that spread the meaning of positive behaviors. The Positive Note Home Program involves teachers making contact with parent/guardians for positive behaviors rather than negative.



Days of Peace and Respect teach students how to work towards a common goal as a team while the Good Citizen Grams spontaneously recognize students for appropriate behavior. Students held a Peace & Respect coat drive to benefit needy families and raised funds for the Multiple Sclerosis and Cystic Fibrosis Foundations by participating in an MS walk and having a car wash. The Super Bowl of Caring collected over 1,000 canned goods during February.

The impact of Mononghela's SAVE chapter is felt on the individual, school and community levels while students explore and learn positive core values. School-wide events spread the meaning of positive behaviors and students facilitate service learning projects that impact the community through nonprofit fundraising, collecting care packages for US troops and providing volunteer services.

### **TEXAS AVENUE SCHOOL – Atlantic City, NJ**

The Texas Avenue School SAVE Chapter is very proud of their accomplishments during the 2008-09 school year. Weekly meetings explored personal values, decision making skills, and conflict management for daily life. SAVE members supervised an "Inaguration Ball" and in the spring held a flower sale. The "Peace Garden" for the school is well on its way to completion and students have been working diligently on identifying the word "peace" in multiple languages. Many of the members participated in the cancer prevention Shirley Mae Run and Gilda's Club walk in May.

The culmination of these and other events hosted and planned by the Texas Avenue School SAVE Chapter impacted the school and community in many ways. The students helped to encourage breast cancer patients and their families while becoming more organized and responsible people. They improved the environment with plant sales and developed leadership skills while preparing and hosting the "Inaugural Ball." The students look forward to a canoe trip this summer which will improve their team work and leadership skills.

**Allstate Agent Involvement:** Texas Avenue School has established a wonderful relationship with local **Allstate agent John Martello** and his wife Brenda. John and Brenda have been involved with the "Souper Can" Bowl, the Sally Mae Cancer Awareness Volunteer Day, National Safe Schools Week, Mix-It-Up Week and our celebration of National SAVE Day. Lastly, John was the turnkey Allstate agent who secured an additional \$500.00 Allstate Grant for our SAVE Chapter. These funds will be used to continue the community violence prevention work of our chapter. Thanks John!



Thank you again to the **Allstate Foundation** and especially, **James Griffin**, for continued support of the activities of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) chapters in New Jersey. 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**  
**May 27, 2009**