

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

Sponsored by the:



**Allstate**<sup>®</sup>  
FOUNDATION

**MIDWEST REGION  
2008-2009  
END OF YEAR REPORT**



***Dr. Pamela L. Riley, Executive Director***  
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# Youth Voices... Grown-Up Choices Initiative HIGHLIGHTS

## **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 Midwest Allstate Foundation to initiate 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 5 schools in the Midwest Region*.

## **Highlights and successes of the program**

- **Sponsorship of Midwest Region Schools** - Five schools are being sponsored for school safety activities in the Midwest:

School	# Youth reached	Ages
Crookston High School - MN	1000	5-18
North Chicago High School - IL	2500	5-21
Park Center High School - MN	1500	15-18
Wilmot High School - WI	1456	13-19
Zion Benton Township High School - Project Pride - IL	390	14-19
<b>TOTAL</b>	6846	5-19

- **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. Included newly added student developed elementary and secondary lesson plans on tolerance and diversity. 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: [www.nationalsave.org/main/newsletter.php](http://www.nationalsave.org/main/newsletter.php)
- ✓ **Mini grants** – Chapters received their \$250 mini grant funds for violence prevention activities in their school and community.
- ✓ **Back to School Safety Campaign** – A Fall Informational Packet was mailed in August to all SAVE Chapters in the Midwest, including a Back-to-School Safety Activities Brochure, ideas for America’s Safe Schools Week and National SAVE Day activities.
- ✓ **Allstate Agent Involvement:** Each participating school has been encouraged to involve local Allstate representatives. National SAVE assisted in connecting SAVE chapters with local Allstate agents. Press releases were prepared for each school’s participation and sent to the acting Foundation manager, Shaundra Turner.

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

### **Crookston High School Crookston, MN**

The Crookston High School SAVE Chapter produced a STOMP presentation entitled, “STOMP Out Violence!” It included several vignettes about topics including bullying, school violence, dating/domestic violence, sexual assault, and harassment. This production was presented to the school, community, and other schools in Minnesota and North Dakota. The students presented puppet shows in the elementary schools on bullying, stranger danger and personal safety. SAVE members created and hung posters to educate their peers on issues related to violence and promoted a violence free school. They participated in activities for America’s Safe Schools Week, National SAVE Day and National Youth Violence Prevention Week.

### **North Chicago High School Chicago, IL**

During the fall North Chicago High School hosted two Freshman Seminars: Violence Training and School Safety Training and “Why Try?” training regarding behavior and consequences. Over 250 students attended the seminars. For the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, a more in-depth seminar on Violence Prevention and School Safety Training was conducted and approximately 250 8<sup>th</sup> graders were in attendance. The School Safety Training seminar produced a need for a smaller, more detailed training session on teen lures/temptations. The Teen Lures session gave students some insight on how teen lures can create unsafe conditions and provided strategies



**National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere**  
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for keeping teens safe and avoiding lures. A more modern/electronic method of communication was implemented when the chapter was part of the Daisy's Resource & Development Center's annual telethon which was broadcast live on the Comcast TV Channel on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Participation was the keyword following the holidays, with the chapter participating in the Summer Operation Harvest, an annual North Chicago Community Day Event and Parade. The chapter presented a community outreach violence prevention activity. The chapter presented "What Every Freshman Should Know". **The impact of the fall activities can be simplified thusly: over 2,145 students were exposed to the SAVE messages on violence prevention in schools.** New partnerships with community members and groups were created. Among those were: the Allstate Foundation, AT&T Aspire Program, Lake County Race Unity Task Force and the Community Education Coalitions.



For the spring, the North Chicago Community Chapter of SAVE was selected as the first high school in the nation to develop the Teen Lures Newscast. This newscast is a tool used by schools to educate teens about sexual predators. They visited the University of Wisconsin at Parkside to learn the benefits of a college education. The chapter experienced violence first hand during National Youth Violence Prevention Week when a freshman student died via gang violence. In April, Dr. Jody

Roy, National SAVE Board of Directors Chairwoman and a professor at Ripon College in WI, along with Shawn Karsten, SAVE Youth Speaker, provided insight into the Aspire Program which encourages academic achievement while warning of the dangers of "dropping out". From April 16 thru the 17<sup>th</sup>, the chapter participated in an overnight retreat which focused on issues such as: peer motivation, conflict resolution and school improvement. The North Chicago Community SAVE chapter and students were proud to represent their school in a county-wide drop-out prevention summit. The summit offered motivational speakers who reinforced the importance of education and peer leadership and youth empowerment.

**WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF SAVE?**

In response to the violent deaths of Jeneau Patterson, David Macklin in 2002, and Darnell Gates in 2003, the North Chicago Safe & Drug Free Schools program initiated the formation of a SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) chapter in their memory.

The group's mission is to ensure that their agendas provide the inspiration for others to renounce violence in all of its forms.

[www.nationalsave.org](http://www.nationalsave.org)

SAVE is a national organization designed to recognize the important roles students can play in making schools, family life, and communities safer.

It's a prevention-oriented, proactive approach to working with the objective of decreasing the potential for violence in school and communities in nearly 3,400 schools and communities nationwide, and has almost 200,000 students. SAVE also seeks to partner with national and local companies, organizations willing to support us in realizing the importance of our group, and looking to strengthen a working relationship.

**OUR OBJECTIVES ARE:**

- Promotes nonviolence within the school and community through positive peer pressure.
- Provides education about the effects and consequences of violence as well as safe extracurricular activities for students, parents, and the community.
- Is open to all students who want to support an attitude of nonviolence.
- Meets regularly to learn about alternatives to violence and to promote its message to other schools throughout the community.
- Provides an opportunity for students to present skills representing common situations that could lead to violence, along with alternatives to resolve these situations.
- Puts student energy to work in a constructive manner.

**LEADERSHIP OFFICERS**

**President:** Bethanika Jordan  
**Dep. President:** Valerie Riley  
**Secretary:** Sadeikka Cousins  
**Asst. Secretary:** Alexandria Cabell  
**Treasurer:** Stephanie Packard

*\*Bethanika is also on the National Youth Advisory Board for SAVE!*

Sponsored by:  
 North Chicago School District #187  
 Safe and Drug Free Schools

**Supervisor/mentor:**  
 Dr. Leann Holman

**Principal:**  
 Mr. Daniel McDermott

**SAVE Advisor:**  
 Ms. Leann Holman

**Coordinator:**  
 Ms. Tonia S. Davis

**SAVE CHAIRMAN ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER:**  
 Dr. Jody Roy  
 Ripon College  
 1000 University Ave.  
 Ripon, WI 53071  
 Phone: 920-223-8000  
 Fax: 920-223-1942  
 Website: www.ripon.edu

**STUDENT'S AGAINST VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE**

**NORTH CHICAGO CHAPTER**

1874 North Chicago High School  
 2137 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
 North Chicago, IL

TEL: 847.674.3444

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS AGAINST VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE**

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Bethanika Jordan of the SAVE Leadership Board in Raleigh, NC.

North Chicago High School  
 2137 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
 North Chicago, IL

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**PLANS FOR 2008-09**

- Chapter President Bethanika Jordan selected to the National SAVE Youth Advisory Board (YAB).
- Chapter participation at Back to School Fallouts in North Chicago (Operation Harvest, North Chicago Community Day, Stop the Violence).
- Bethanika Jordan will attend YAB Leadership Training in Raleigh, NC in October 08.
- SAVE Students will partner with Lake County Unity Task Force to host a series of violence prevention forums.
- SAVE Students will do outreach activities to communicate with the community, parents, and RCHS alumni.
- SAVE Students will lead a positive motivational campaign to teach their peers how and why we need to achieve.
- Promote violence prevention during Daisy's Resource & Development Center's live telethon October 18, 2008.
- SAVE Students train as Teen Authors to present a series of teen essays in a newscast setting.

Special Funding this year is provided by

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**Allstate Agent Involvement:** The North Chicago SAVE Chapter contacted agents on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> to participate in the drunk-driving prevention activities at North Chicago High School. Deborah Williams, the mother of our SAVE chapter President and National SAVE Youth Advisory Board Member, Brehanna Jordan (<http://www.nationalsave.org/main/YAB0809board.php>), is an Allstate employee.

**Park Center Senior High International Baccalaureate World School  
Brooklyn Park, MN**

Park Center Senior High School SAVE Chapter provided leadership training for all of their immediate members and brainstormed activities for the year. They created a teacher appreciation project and launched an international blog, whereby they partnered with schools in Turkey, Morocco and the UK to discuss issues relevant to youth and encourage global thinking and understanding. The group has grown personally in their understanding of world issues and has learned more about how to influence positive behavior in their community. They have had to examine how to build community among a very diverse school body and have come up with extremely creative ideas; including a YouTube video promoting the blog. The blog is located at [oursspacepc.blogspot.com](http://oursspacepc.blogspot.com). The chapter hosted a culture awareness week in March and coordinated an HIV/Aids benefit concert in May.

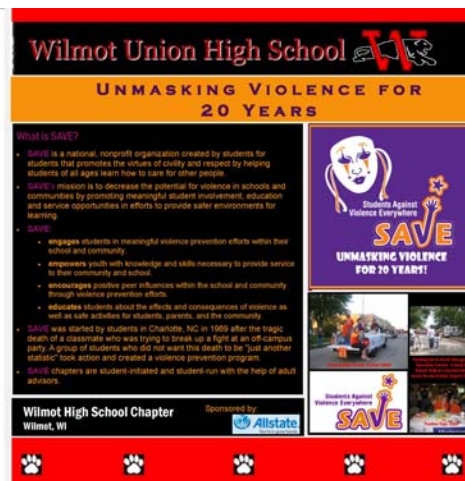
**Allstate Agent Involvement:** The Park Center SAVE Chapter informed and invited the local Allstate Office to the HIV/Aids benefit concert.

**Wilmot High School  
Wilmot, WI**

The Community Day Fundraiser was a community affair where Wilmot High School SAVE chapter participated by manning information booths, selling community day booklets and handing out brochures. The chapter also participated in the Wilmot High School Homecoming parade. The Wilmot Union High School Chapter was able to

donate \$200 toward the expenses of creating a SAVE 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Memorial Day garden for Alex Orange on the West Charlotte High School campus in Charlotte, NC. Looking forward, with some of the money raised from the Community Day booklets, the Wilmot Chapter will be assisting the Randall Elementary School in starting up a SAVE Chapter in the 2009-10 school year. The chapter hopes to continue this process to eventually have SAVE Chapters in all of the four feeder schools that go to Wilmot High School. They also look forward to bringing local **Allstate agent, Mr. Reesman** back to our school to do a presentation to the teen drivers in the school, to help them become more aware of how reckless driving impacts their lives. The activities thus far have enabled Wilmot SAVE to



contribute to the Alex Orange Memorial, provided tools for students and parents to help them overcome obstacles and provided a non-violence message in the telethon that was broadcast across the Comcast Channel. **The Wilmot SAVE Chapter made an impact on the community by speaking with people who simply stopped by our booth because they saw the SAVE/Allstate Banner and wanted to know how Allstate was involved. We informed them of the Allstate Grant and some were surprised to hear that the Allstate Foundation had funded such a great program! Way to go Allstate!**

**Allstate Agent Involvement:** Mr. Reesman from the Burlington Allstate office participated in the Community Day Fundraiser. **Mr. Reesman has been with Allstate for 27 years** and said he enjoyed getting out in the schools to talk with students about the importance of safety when driving and the services Allstate can provide.

### **Zion-Benton Township High School, Zion, IL**

The Zion Benton SAVE Chapter's fall activities ranged from the student driven to professional contributions. The student driven activities focused on pledges, poster influences, visual reinforcements (wearing orange or purple t-shirts to promote non-violence), and student elections of "peace leaders" (one student per classroom). The professional contributions included a police officer speaking on bullying, a visual presentation of the local juvenile detention facility and accompanying lecture on the consequences of violence.

During the spring, Zion Benton concentrated its efforts on one major presentation. The presentation focused on the time frame between Prom and Graduation, which is the prime time span for teen pregnancy. They invited the Honorable George Bridges to speak to the students on "Violence in the Schools" and the consequences of teen pregnancy. Mr. Bridges encouraged the students to plan positively for the future whether it is college, professional, or military and not to be distracted by pitfalls. The students and Mr. Bridges continued their conversations thru the meeting time into a shared pizza dinner.

### **Allstate Agent Involvement:**

The Chapter invited **Mr. Todd Horton** and several other Allstate Agents to participate in the program. **Mr. Horton attended and encouraged the students to choose a better path and to concentrate upon graduating and contributing to society.**



Thank you again to the Allstate Foundation for their continued support of the activities of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) chapters in the Midwest Region. 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 8, 2009***