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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Students from Across the Country Unite at the 9th Annual SAVE Summit to Curb Violence

Raleigh, North Carolina, March 27, 2004—Today, the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), winner of the 2004 Inspiration in Prevention Award from Youth Crime Watch of America and The National Crime Prevention Council, held its 9th Annual Summit “SAVE: Lighting the Peaceful Way for 15 Years.” This year’s theme was chosen to celebrate the 15th anniversary of SAVE. Over 1,000 students, teachers, law enforcement officers, counselors, and community leaders from across the nation who run SAVE chapters in their schools and communities came together to help celebrate 15 years of SAVE and to share their ideas and accomplishments of the year.

Activities for the Summit consisted of interactive and motivational workshops on a range of topics, including: diversity, dating violence, law enforcement and education partnering to make a difference, anger management, and bully buster skills. Workshop sessions were filled with both fun and educational information taught by SAVE members from across the country. Attendees also participated in a slide show presentation of chapter photos, a music video contest featuring the *SAVE I Believe I Can Make A Difference* Song, a remembrance to lives lost due to violence, and a national service project effort. This year the national service project was selected to be “Future Footsteps,” which encompasses collecting new athletic shoes that will be donated to a national nonprofit distribution organization.

Jon Callegher, a motivational speaker at 22 years of age was the keynote speaker at the Summit. Callegher is one of North America’s youngest and most exciting speakers and role models. Through his incredible ability to relate to youth, Callegher left his audience with exciting new perspectives and strategies to redefine their lives and achieve their wildest dreams.

As this year marks the 15th anniversary of SAVE, participants also heard from founding members Angela Bynum, Dawne Orange, and Gary Weart. Ms. Bynum and some fellow students began the SAVE legacy 15 years ago in memory of their friend and peer Alex Orange. Ms. Orange, Alex’s mother, currently serves on the National SAVE

Honorary Board of Directors, and Mr. Weart was the very first SAVE advisor and the teacher and coach of Alex Orange.

The annual SAVE Summit is a rare and much anticipated opportunity for young people to speak with other young people and exchange ideas. SAVE students and advisors learn about successes of each other's SAVE chapters, receive tips on how to make their chapter more effective, and how to influence other students at their school to be proactive and join SAVE. Exceptional SAVE chapters, students, and advisors who have been instrumental in promoting safety in their school and community were recognized at the Summit.

"SAVE's vision is for all students to be able to attend schools that are safe and secure, free of fear, and conducive to learning. As more students join SAVE chapters all across the country, we are moving closer to making our vision for safer schools a reality" said Executive Director of SAVE, Dr. Pamela Riley.

Mary Catherine Tee, Chair of the National SAVE Youth Advisory Board says "SAVE has impacted my life by heightening my leadership ability and has opened many doors for me. The past four years I have been involved with SAVE have been some of my best because they have shown me that I can make a difference and change people's lives."

SAVE started at West Charlotte High School (N.C.) 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.

Currently, the National Association of SAVE is a student-run, student-initiated violence prevention organization with nearly 1,300 chapters in 43 states with over 112,000 members in elementary, middle, high schools, colleges and communities nationwide. SAVE provides education about the effects and consequences of violence and helps provide safe activities for students, parents and communities.

SAVE has continued to grow nationwide due to support from its national sponsor, Chevrolet, as part of its community service initiative, Chevy **R.O.C.K. (Reaching Out to Communities & Kids)**. Chevrolet is sponsoring this Summit and SAVE on a national level to generate awareness as SAVE continues to expand and spread their message to youth everywhere.

The National Association of SAVE would like to give special thanks to Pepsi Bottling Ventures for their donation of all beverages provided at the National SAVE Summit. Pepsi, it's the cola!

For further information on the Summit or other SAVE activities, please visit www.nationalsave.org. Anyone interested in starting a SAVE chapter at their school can contact SAVE at 1-866-343-SAVE to receive free start-up materials and guidance.

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