



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### The Allstate Foundation Partners With Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) to Promote Teen Safe Driving

**Raleigh, N.C., (November 9, 2009)** — The Allstate Foundation presented \$60,000 to Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) to support SAVE chapters in the West Central Region of the US in their efforts to increase youth safety and promote teen safe driving. This grant from the Allstate Foundation will support the SAVE program in ten schools or community agencies in the West Central Region and support teen safe driving awareness campaigns during key times of the year, such as holidays, prom and graduation, and back to school.

**One of the schools selected for the program is Montbello High School in Denver, Colorado.** The Montbello High School SAVE Chapter is increasing awareness of youth safety through posters, t-shirts and activities. They participated in America's Safe Schools Week by promoting safety throughout the week with daily activities. In December the SAVE Chapter will participate in a national service project benefiting shelters for battered women and in May they will promote teen safe driving with student council activities.

SAVE is a peer to peer organization that strives to increase youth involvement in their own safety efforts. SAVE believes in the power of positive peer influences. According to a recent Allstate Foundation report, ***when it comes to teen safe driving, peers are a major influence on teens – both positive and negative. Nearly half said they are sometimes distracted by passengers (47 percent), and nearly as many said they drive more safely without friends in the car (44 percent). More than half (53 percent) said friends would be the most effective influence in getting them to drive more safely.***

#### SAFETY TIPS FROM TEENS FOR TEENS

##### Teen Safety While Driving

- **Avoid distractions.** Talking or texting on your cell phone while driving gives you the reaction time of a 70-year old. Texting a friend, eating a cheeseburger and listening to loud music increases your chance of crashing.
- **Be defensive.** Leave room between you and the cars around you.
- **Wear your seat belt.** Research has shown that wearing lap/shoulder belts can reduce the risk of dying in a crash by 45%.
- **Remember that driving anytime can be dangerous.** Even driving home from school can be deadly! Teens are most at risk between 3 pm and midnight.
- **Slow down!** You're not invincible.
- **Speak up if your friend is driving like a maniac or wants you to!** Don't let your silence be the last thing either of you hears.
- **Realize that a crash really can happen to you.** Make good choices when you are behind the wheel. They may just save your life. Or your friend's life.

##### Teen Safety in Your School & Community

- **Get involved!** Get involved in making your school and community safer – Join or start a SAVE Chapter!
- **Pass it On!** Educate your peers about different ways to stop violence and to be safe.

- **Respect others.** Be accepting and appreciating of other people of different cultures, races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.
- **Steer clear.** Avoid trouble areas in your school and community.
- **Say No!** Don't use alcohol or drugs and stay away from students associated with them.
- **Educate Yourself!** Be educated on the topic of violence prevention and teen safety.
- **Settle arguments with words, not fists or weapons.** Talk about issues instead of expressing anger through fights.
- **Be a friend.** Step outside of your current circle of friends and be a good friend to everyone. Befriend someone who is being bullied.
- **Stand Up!** Do the right thing - even when it is the most difficult thing to do!

"Kids today have to spread the news about how to drive smarter and Allstate Foundation support will help to provide our SAVE chapter with the tools needed to do that," said Candy Gonzalez, student at Montbello High School (CO) and member of the National SAVE Youth Advisory Board. "This generous grant from The Allstate Foundation will assist students in finding real solutions to the issues of teen safe driving that they face each day," stated Dr. Pamela L. Riley, Executive Director of SAVE. Past Allstate Foundation assistance has benefited SAVE schools in North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Nevada, Michigan, Minnesota, Texas, Oklahoma, Utah, Wisconsin, California, Colorado, and Ohio.

"By empowering teens to become smart driving activists in their schools and communities, we hope to reverse the staggering statistics," said \_\_\_\_ for The Allstate Foundation's West Central's region. "Through The Allstate Foundation, we seek to develop innovative, teen-informed approaches to raise awareness of the issue and ultimately, to help save lives and reduce injuries."

With support from Allstate agents and employee volunteers, SAVE chapters in Colorado 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 teen safe driving and youth safety. If you are interested in 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](http://www.nationalsave.org) or call toll free at 1-866-343-SAVE. Schools interested in participating in the Allstate Foundation/SAVE Teen Safe Driving Program should also contact 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 1,800 chapters in 47 states, with over 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](http://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 major initiatives for the Foundation since 2005. For more information visit [www.ProtectTeenDrivers.com](http://www.ProtectTeenDrivers.com).

<sup>1</sup>The Allstate Foundation: "Chronic: A Report on Teen Safe Driving 2005"