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Contact: Patty O'Brien, Communications Mgr.
E-mail: pobrien@nationalsave.org
Phone: 919-661-7800



Joseph P. McCormick
Sr. Corporate Relations Manager
E-mail: jmccormick@allstate.com
Phone: 972-871-6479

Vista Ridge High School Plans Teen Safe Driving Activities

Cedar Park, Texas (March 10, 2011) — Thanks to the Allstate Foundation, Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), Inc. presented a grant to Vista Ridge High School to increase youth safety and promote teen safe driving. Teen safe driving awareness campaigns will be conducted during key times of the year including holidays, Teen Safe Driving Month (May), prom, graduation, and back to school.

The Vista Ridge High School SAVE Chapter has held Teen Safe Driving activities including the Shattered Dreams program at their school. The program consisted of a mock car accident and memorial service for the student body. This event helped to show students the real-life aftermath of drinking and driving. They invited the father of a student killed while texting and driving to visit their school and he spoke to the senior class. The chapter has also hosted a lock-in dedicated to the Click-it or Ticket campaign, urging students to wear seatbelts every time they get into a car. Other plans for the 2010-2011 school year include promoting SAVE awareness throughout their school and community. They will also conduct additional activities during National Youth Traffic Safety Month and National Youth Violence Prevention Week (March 21-25).

With support from Allstate agents and employee volunteers, SAVE chapters will be able to provide leadership in their schools and communities to ensure that all students will be encouraged and empowered with healthy life skills while engaging in educational activities and opportunities to promote teen safe driving and youth safety.

SAVE is a peer-to-peer organization that focuses on the power of positive peer influences. According to a recent Allstate Foundation survey, *Shifting Teen Attitudes: The State of Teen Driving 2009*, peers are a major influence on teens – both positive and negative. Some of the concerning statistics that SAVE chapters will address include:

- Eighty-two percent of teens reported using cell phones while driving.
- Nearly half (48 percent) of girls admit they are likely to speed more than 10 mph over the limit, versus 36 percent of boys.
- Seventy-seven percent of teens admit they have felt unsafe with another teen's driving.

“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 SAVE’s executive director, Carleen Wray.

“By empowering teens to become smart driving activists in their schools and communities, we hope to reverse the staggering statistics,” said Joseph P. McCormick, Allstate Sr. Corporate Relations Manager. “Through The Allstate Foundation’s partnership with SAVE, we’re working to develop innovative, teen focused approaches to raise awareness of the issue and, ultimately, to help save lives and reduce injuries.”

(MORE)

Previous assistance from The Allstate Foundation has benefited SAVE schools in North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Nevada, Michigan, Minnesota, Texas, Oklahoma, Utah, Wisconsin, California, Colorado, Virginia, Washington, South Dakota and Ohio.

About the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere:

SAVE started at West Charlotte High School in Charlotte, 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. SAVE provides education about the effects and consequences of violence and helps provide safe activities for students, parents and communities. For more information on SAVE or starting a SAVE chapter, visit www.nationalsave.org, or contact SAVE at (866) 343-SAVE to receive free start-up materials and guidance.

About The Allstate Foundation:

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The Allstate Corporation (NYSE: ALL). Allstate and The Allstate Foundation sponsor community initiatives to promote safe and vital communities; tolerance, inclusion, and diversity; and economic empowerment. The Allstate Foundation believes in the financial potential of every individual and in helping America's families achieve their American dream.

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