



**Summarizing the Successes of
S.A.V.E. Chapters Assisted Through the
Chevy R.O.C.K. Program
With GMAC Grants**



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Summary of the Success of New S.A.V.E. Chapters Receiving Funding Assistance through the GMAC Grants Program

Introduction

Sixty-three schools and community-based organizations in ten cities across the United States were given firm foundations for success in starting and maintaining the Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.) program thanks to GMAC. The National Association of S.A.V.E., who receives corporate sponsorship from Chevrolet through the Chevy R.O.C.K. (Reaching Out to Communities & Kids) Program, was able to provide mini-grants to S.A.V.E. chapters that were established between July 1, 2001 and January 1, 2002 through the generosity of GMAC. These mini-grants provided funds for the chapters to implement lesson plans on crime prevention and conflict management in addition to holding awareness and violence prevention events and implementing service projects.

S.A.V.E. chapter advisors and members were also given further opportunities to expand their exposure to S.A.V.E.'s ideals and principles by being eligible for scholarships to attend the 2002 S.A.V.E. Summit which was held in Raleigh, North Carolina on April 13, 2002. Approximately 20 S.A.V.E. chapters were represented at the S.A.V.E. Summit and received valuable information on infusing the S.A.V.E. program into their schools, obtaining project ideas, and networking with other S.A.V.E. chapters.

Ultimately, the funding from GMAC allowed many S.A.V.E. chapters to take their programs from beginning phases to established programs that show effectiveness in creating safer, stronger, and more positive climates for learning and youth development at the elementary, middle, and high school level or in other youth-serving capacities. Highlights from only a sample of S.A.V.E. chapters in the five expansion markets for the S.A.V.E. program in the 2001-2002 year, as well as additional markets of the Chevy R.O.C.K. program, are provided to show evidence of the work accomplished in new S.A.V.E. chapters as a direct result of the GMAC funding. These chapters can now serve as models for other schools and community-based organizations for starting the S.A.V.E. program.

A Sampling of the Successes

Orlando, Florida

Lancaster Elementary School

Sue Copeland and Coni Carpinelli, S.A.V.E. Advisors at Lancaster Elementary School were able to reach the entire student body of kindergarten through fifth grade students and share with them important safety information and conflict management skills through S.A.V.E. Students wrote, practiced and performed anti-violence themed puppet shows for the student body using role-modeling techniques. S.A.V.E. club members performed "Peace Song" in celebration of Non-Violence Month, and even continued their puppet show performance while also making posters for the YMCA Healthy Kids Day event. The advisors led students to hold school-wide campaigns on anti-bullying and planned activities for Random Acts of Kindness. Service projects included beautification landscaping at a local church and visitations to children's hospitals and senior citizen centers. Although some of the work of the S.A.V.E. chapter was done during school hours, many events were held as part of before and after-school programs. Lancaster Elementary S.A.V.E. program greatly expanded the horizons of these young students while providing service to their school and community.

Osceola High School

Students at Osceola High School started off on the right foot when implementing their S.A.V.E. program and have been marching forward ever since. A student found the web site for S.A.V.E. and brought the program to Norma Evans-O'Connor who now proudly serves as advisor for the chapter. Through S.A.V.E, the school now has a peer mediation program, which has decreased office referrals down significantly. Through funds with GMAC, these students started a "Silence Hurts Campaign" in hopes of keeping the lines of communication open between students and faculty of the school. Instances, such as Columbine, still are on the minds of students and members of the Osceola High S.A.V.E. chapter, so these young folks are working to prevent such an event from occurring at their school. The students assisted school leaders in making sure that lockdown procedures were in place, and that all students and staff were able to follow through the steps in the unlikely event that a crisis situation should occur. Students also focused on the negative effects of drugs by working alongside the Kissimmee Police Department to create a video featuring a mock "rave" or party that culminates with a mock court trial at the local courthouse. Towards the end of the school year, the S.A.V.E. chapter advocated for the addition of a summer school session to aid fellow students in advancing in studies. They also worked with freshmen classes using activities to build cultural sensitivity and to decrease instances of fighting, which often involve students in the freshmen class. In all, Osceola High School has a powerful S.A.V.E. chapter that is still growing.

Tampa, Florida

Pinellas County Schools

Carolyn Bouffard attended the S.A.V.E. implementation workshop in Tampa, Florida in November 2001 and was very enthusiastic about the program. She took the knowledge she had gained alongside her colleague, Elsie Barnard, and began introducing the S.A.V.E. program to Social Workers and Counselors in the Pinellas County Schools. Carolyn and Elsie began the program's infusion at the elementary level. South Ward, Dunedin, Frontier, and Sandy Lane Elementary schools began using the program. Many of the elementary schools focused on bullying prevention including encouraging students to report bullying incidents, as well as teaching ways to control anger and to work through conflicts. The program quickly spread into middle and high schools also. By the end of the school year, Pinellas County Schools boasted the infusion of S.A.V.E. in ten schools. Information on gun safety and conflict management styles and strategies via role-plays, as well as holding peer mediation trainings, and instituting "fight free days" activities followed. On April 25, 2002, Pinellas County Schools sponsored a "Peace Conference" for students to share information about S.A.V.E. Ideas from the S.A.V.E Summit, in which S.A.V.E. representatives were able to attend from GMAC funds, were included in this event. Surely much more growth of S.A.V.E. in Pinellas County Schools will occur this year with this much energy in place.

A.J. Ferrell Magnet Middle School

A.J. Ferrell Magnet has acted like a magnet for positive change since Officer Susan Bowers began implementation of S.A.V.E. where she serves as School Resource Officer. Officer Bowers immediately began using the S.A.V.E. Essentials Manual to assist in her classroom presentations on topics such as assaults, theft, vandalism and other crime topics and crime prevention techniques. Officer Bowers continued using the other components of S.A.V.E. by using activities on how to be a good listener, as she could see the value of this skill with middle school-age youth. Students at A.J. Ferrell worked on the "Be a Friend – Not a Bully" project, made PSAs on the local education station at the school sharing conflict management ideas, worked with elementary students at a local school, participated in a neighborhood clean-up at an elderly home, and collected can goods for a local

ministry outreach program. Students exercised writing skills by completing essays on the effects of crime on the homeless population. Overall, it is clear that these middle school students are in safe keeping with Officer Bowers and S.A.V.E.

Detroit, Michigan

Marquette Elementary & Marquette Middle Schools

Detroit may be home to the motor city, but the future leaders of this town can clearly be found at Marquette Elementary/Middle Schools. Carmen Sims' young pupils have been working since November 2001 to start S.A.V.E. at their schools. A school-wide ceremony kicked-off the start of S.A.V.E. followed by a Spirit of Giving Christmas donation service project involving the entire school. Weekly meetings were held for the program during school hours with large amounts of attendance from the students. Sims had the Detroit Police Department aid in making presentations to the students entitled "Do Your Best." In addition, a peer mediation training was held at a nearby camp to prepare students in handling conflicts in an objective manner. Students learned of the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. while visiting a museum with a featured exhibit. Service projects continued throughout the school year including the placement of crime prevention posters throughout the school. A highlight of this chapter's year was when Carmen was chosen as a torchbearer for the 2002 Olympic Games, and her S.A.V.E. students were able to witness her hand her flame to legendary Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin. Sims credits S.A.V.E. with aiding in improving the overall climate of her schools.

Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School

In a short period of time, Sally Ebo has led students at Ralph Waldo Emerson through a large amount of information and involved them in service to others. Sally enlisted the aid of Sgt. Miller from the 8th Precinct of the Detroit Police Department to aid in presenting important crime prevention information as part of the kick-off for S.A.V.E. at her school. Students continued learning about the duties law enforcement officials, how to be a good and responsible witness to crime and illegal activity, and weapons safety. Students implemented "fight free days" at the school and worked to model the "Soldiers of Peace" crusade, a Nobel-Prize winning project led by students elsewhere in the U.S. Service projects included the visitation and reading to local nursing home residents, and adopting a family to feed in the Detroit area. Towards the end of the school year, students were exposed to information including CPR training, and basic life rescue techniques. Emerson students now have the hope of S.A.V.E.-ing other lives!

San Antonio, Texas

Sinclair Elementary School

First graders at Sinclair Elementary School were busy in the Spring of 2002 learning about how to prevent crime and violence through S.A.V.E. Karen Robbins chose such young students to work with the program in hopes of having important skills acquired at an early age, but lasting a lifetime. Karen, using the S.A.V.E. Essentials Manual, taught first grade students how rules and laws can reduce violence through discussing the importance of rules and laws, and having students create their own rules for home and school. These young scholars also interviewed a real police officer to learn about people in positions of authority and law enforcement. The students were busy making a video showing two different ways to manage conflict and showed the final product to the entire student body on the school's "morning show." One might think students this young would not be able to conduct a service project, but these students are full of surprises and resources as they collected canned food in late April 2002 from the entire school. Students celebrated their successes

with a S.A.V.E. party at the end of school. It's amazing what we can all learn from first grade students at Sinclair Elementary!

Harlandale Alternative Center

Harlandale Alternative Center is a school that can have a difficult climate at times. Suspended students, students who have difficult home lives, or those who do not work well in traditional school settings attend regular classes at this center. Naida Segura engages students in meaningful activities that aid in turning their lives around. Naida chose to infuse the S.A.V.E. program with other prevention programs and strategies for maximum effectiveness in intervening with negative behavior and preventing further problems that they may encounter. Students learned practical skills in anger control, problem-solving, conflict management, respect for themselves, others, and the law. Chapter members traveled to local elementary schools to talk about their experiences and to impress on younger kids the importance of staying out of trouble. A poster contest was sponsored by S.A.V.E. In addition, the entire student body viewed the S.A.V.E. Story video. An 8th grade student named Lisa evidences an example of the power of S.A.V.E. Lisa, who attended the S.A.V.E. workshop in the fall of 2001 and worked to establish the program at Harlandale Alternative Center, returned to her traditional school. She now wants to be a teacher. After she left Harlandale, she wrote a letter to Naida thanking her for taking her to the workshop and letting her be a part of S.A.V.E.

San Diego, California

Memorial Academy Middle School

Students at Memorial Academy in San Diego began meeting as a S.A.V.E. chapter in mid-October 2001 with only a handful of people, but this didn't stop the power they possessed to make a difference. Students were guided by Mary Deckard, advisor, to learn about crime prevention through examining people in positions of authority and in crime reporting. They continued their learning by looking at non-violent alternatives to handling conflicts and making responsible decisions. S.A.V.E. members, alongside Ms. Deckard, in a special education classroom, presented the conflict management information. Follow-up lesson plans were continued with this class throughout the rest of the school year. Anti-bullying and other violence prevention messages were presented on bookmarks and on bulletin boards throughout the school by the students as a result of Violence Impact Forums held by the students in S.A.V.E. The chapter was so inspired by their own success that they hope to assist a local elementary school in setting up and running a S.A.V.E. chapter. The students at Memorial Academy are leaving a positive legacy behind them with S.A.V.E.

Poway High School

When Sandra Stromberg introduced S.A.V.E. to a small group of students at Poway High School the students were excited about the thoughts of starting something new at their school. Work on establishing the chapter began in the Fall of 2001 after Ms. Stromberg attending the S.A.V.E. implementation workshop in San Diego. The students actively began informing fellow students about the effects of violence through anti-violence gun poster campaigns, drug prevention assemblies, making announcements in the Daily Bulletin, and performing skits. During a designated Anti-Violence Week, students distributed fliers and pins, held an assembly on the topic of suicide, as well as placed posters throughout the school. A highlight by S.A.V.E. member, Jenna Hilbert, was being selected as a 2002 Olympic Torch Relay Support runner in Laguna Beach. Jenna states, "Looking back I realize that this was a chance of a lifetime and I am so happy that I took the

opportunity and that it made such a positive impact on my life.” The S.A.V.E. chapter made a wreath honoring local firefighters in the wake of the September 11th Terrorist attacks as well. The culminating event for the new S.A.V.E. chapter was holding a “Battle of the Bands” concert on May 24, 2002 at the Poway Community Center. The students solicited volunteers to aid as chaperones or contributing items such as baked goods and drinks. The concert was a benefit event with proceeds going to a local battered women’s shelter. Poway High School S.A.V.E. chapter is well on its way to being a great success!

Additional Chevy R.O.C.K. Market Areas

Adelante High School, Roseville, California

Sacramento, California Market Area

The students of Adelante High School’s S.A.V.E. chapter are quite busy with violence prevention activities at their school and in their community. There is a clear presence of students representing S.A.V.E. and sending out a message of peace at this school. Under the guidance of Katie Palatinus, the chapter thrived in its first year of existence and has bright prospects for chapter growth in the future. Ms. Palatinus worked with S.A.V.E. chapter members and a Peer Helping Class during the Spring of 2002. One of the initial activities was a crime prevention strategy called, “Yes to Careers No to Violence Campaign.” Students went through a social skills training receiving information on human relations, job markets, and setting life goals. Both groups of students aided Katie in setting up, marketing, and holding a series of workshops all relating to topics in the campaign. Students continued expanding their knowledge base, learning about decision-making, civic responsibility, conflict management and anger control. A year-end Career Fair was held on May 17, 2002 for students to have exposure to the actual job market and college options. These high school students were exposed to positive, attainable options instead of violence, and will clearly make a difference in this world.

Chestnut Log Middle School, Douglasville, GA

Jacksonville, Florida Market Area

Shelly Kimball, School Resource Officer at Chestnut Log Middle School, attended the Orlando area S.A.V.E. implementation workshop in the Fall of 2001. She took the message of S.A.V.E. back to her school and involved the teaching staff by asking them to recommend youth to comprise a core group of young people who would like to work to set up a S.A.V.E. program. Shelly got an excellent group of diverse and dynamic youth. From this group each grade level had a designated leader to work with their respective grade level peers. S.A.V.E. meetings began in early February 2002, with a large number of students in attendance. Members reviewed the S.A.V.E. Story video, and immediately wanted to get involved. They planned a candy-gram fundraiser for Valentine’s Day. The funds would eventually be added to GMAC funds for students to travel in April to the 2002 S.A.V.E. Summit in Raleigh. In the meantime, the S.A.V.E. chapter continued to meet, learning about issues of crime prevention, bullying prevention, diversity and bias awareness, and conflict management. On March 8, 2002 a kick-off rally was held which involved the entire student body. The Douglas County Sheriff, Phil Miller was in attendance and spoke to the students about teen violence and the importance of reporting threatening or potentially dangerous information, as well as reducing bullying. Drama and choral members provided a skit, which was debriefed by a discussion with the audience. On April 22, 2002 nine students and 2 adults headed to Raleigh for the S.A.V.E. Summit. The experience was very exciting and informative for the delegation. They returned to continue their school year learning about child abuse prevention and holding a dance for the school. The students volunteered at a local arts center to provide assistance for a community event as part of

a service project with the organization. Chestnut Log Middle School's S.A.V.E. chapter has had an incredible year full of positive youth power in action!

Conclusion

The S.A.V.E. chapter activities and events summarized are only a sampling of the great work accomplished by the young people and adult advisors of the schools and organizations receiving funds by GMAC to start their chapters. It is clear that the assistance of these funds made a positive difference, not only in the overall safety and climate of schools and communities, but in individual lives of youth as young as five years of age to those leaving high school for entry into college or the workforce. If only one young life is saved by the benefit of GMAC's generosity that is worth more than gold, and it's enlightening to know that S.A.V.E. was the vessel that made it happen. As 8th grade student, Robert Babcock of Marquette Middle School in Detroit wrote, "I was invited to join the Marquette S.A.V.E. chapter. I thought it wouldn't work but I could get out of class for an hour once a week. Man, I was wrong! I learned that there are other ways to handle problems. Fighting isn't the answer, talking it out is." Point made!

LISTING OF 2001-02 GMAC GRANT S.A.V.E. CHAPTER RECEIPIENTS

ORLANDO MARKET AREA

**Eatonville Boys & Girls Club
Rolling Hills Elementary
Central Area Abeyance
Lancaster Elementary
Casselberry Elementary
Osceola High School
Lakeland High School**

*Eatonville, Florida
Orlando, Florida
Rockledge, Florida
Orlando, Florida
Casselberry, Florida
Kissimmee, Florida
Lakeland, Florida*

TAMPA MARKET AREA

**AJ Ferrell Magnet of Technology
Benjamin Franklin Middle
Williams Middle
Temple Terrace Elementary
Southeast High
Manatee County Safe & Drug Free Schools
Modesta Robbins Partnership School
South Ward Elementary
Sandy Lane Elementary
Frontier Elementary
Skycrest Elementary
Dunedin Elementary
Pinellas County Schools
Crescent City Jr./Sr. High
Doughtrey Elementary
Johnson Middle School**

*Tampa, Florida
Tampa, Florida
Tampa, Florida
Temple Terrace, Florida
Bradenton, Florida
Bradenton, Florida
Clearwater, Florida
Clearwater, Florida
Clearwater, Florida
Clearwater, Florida
Clearwater, Florida
Dunedin, Florida
New Port Richey, Florida
Crescent City, Florida
Bradenton, Florida
Bradenton, Florida*

DETROIT MARKET AREA

**Brewer Elementary School
Carstens Elementary School
Catherine Ferguson Academy
Chadsey High School
Greenfield Union Elementary
Hamilton Elementary
Jane Addams Middle School
Marquette Elementary School
Marquette Middle School
Peter Vetal School
Ralph Waldo Emerson School
Wayne Elementary School**

*Detroit MI
Detroit, MI
Detroit, MI
Detroit, MI
Detroit, MI
Detroit, MI
Royal Oak, MI
Detroit, MI
Detroit, MI
Detroit, MI
Detroit, MI
Detroit, MI*

SAN ANTONIO MARKET AREA

Nimitz Academy
Ridgeview Elementary School
East Central High School
John Glenn Elementary School
Sinclair Elementary School
Collier Elementary School
Harlandale Alternative Center
Harlandale SUAVE Initiative

San Antonio, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
San Antonio, Texas

SAN DIEGO MARKET AREA

Meadowbrook Middle School
Sherman Elementary School
Poway High School
Westwood Elementary School
Memorial Academy
Thirty First Street Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Knox Elementary School
Mesa Verde Middle School
Rolling Hills Elementary School
Black Mountain Middle School
Poway Unified School District
Bernardo Heights Middle School
San Diego School Police Services
Twin Peaks Middle School

San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California
San Diego, California

ADDITIONAL MARKET AREAS

Jacksonville, Florida

Chestnut Log Middle School

Douglasville, GA

Atlanta, Georgia

South Cobb High School

Austell, GA

Greensboro, North Carolina

Leaksville Spray Elementary School

Rockingham, NC

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Seville Elementary School
Westview Elementary School

Pittsburgh, PA
Pittsburgh, PA

Sacramento, California

Adelante High School

Roseville, CA