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**Highlights of State and Local PTA
Bullying Prevention Programs & Activities
March 2011**

California

Capistrano Unified Council of PTSAs Council in Mission Viejo, CA worked with staff and students to bring awareness of the consequences of bullying after the tragic death of one of their students. They created “Blue Ribbon” week to take a stand against all types of bullying. On the first day of the campaign, students were greeted with blue ribbons and balloons when they arrived on campus. The students prepared a “quote for the day” that took a stand against bullying and were shared in the school’s morning announcements.

Georgia

Georgia PTA hosted Youth Advocacy Day at the Capitol on February 9, 2011 where they took 300 students to the statehouse and had a student representative discuss a pending bill on bullying and its importance. In addition, a number of bullying prevention summits have been held in Georgia with PTA’s leadership and support.

Maryland

Montgomery County Council of PTAs, led by the Northwest Cluster in Germantown, MD, advocated for the implementation of a school system-wide anti-bullying system to their County Board of Education. In addition, the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) system invited parents along with staff, to be part of a full day seminar on bullying with Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Safe and Drug-Free Schools at the U.S. Department of Education. During this event, parents and PTA leaders learned about important information that they could take back and use in their school to further promote bullying prevention.

Kingsview Middle School PTA in Germantown, MD worked with school administration to create an Anti-Bullying Task Force, that included participants from the State Attorney’s office, PTA leaders, parents, staff and students.

Texas

Schimelpfenig Middle School PTA in Plano, TX held a cyber bullying presentation in November 2011 with a bullying prevention expert. This event was held because many parents have a general idea of what their children do online, but lack a specific understanding of what cyber bullying looks like. This presentation helped raise awareness about this issue and addressed some specific steps to empower parents and children to use technology wisely and safely.

Utah

Utah PTA promoted “Rachel’s Challenge” a program that was inspired by Rachel Scott, the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. This program was delivered through school assemblies and encouraged students to treat each other fairly and with respect.

Virginia

Sunrise Valley Elementary School Reston, VA: Sunrise Valley Elementary School brought in Stefan Mascoll, a former violence prevention specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools, to discuss cyber bullying with fifth grade students. Following this program, Mr. Mascoll and Sunrise Valley Elementary School guidance counselor, Jennifer Savory, addressed the PTA in order to tell parents about the connection between bullying and student learning. At this meeting, the PTA provided its members an anti-bullying pledge that parents could use as a starting point to discuss bullying with their children.