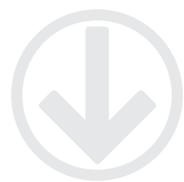


MAY
2009



Leading the Way!

**Bullying Prevention
2009 Youth Festival**



Youth Leading The Way!

BULLYING PREVENTION YOUTH FESTIVAL

Nearly 50 grade 5 students from 17 schools across Haldimand, Norfolk and Six Nations came together to discuss solutions to the problem “bullying”. It was a day full of positive messages, character building, and looking forward into the possibilities of creating a world free of bullying.

Students were kept energized all day by the music and movement of Saidat Vandenburg, and had their discussion time focused by a presentation from Lisa Savelli. The discussion groups dealt with one of three types of bullying – bullying in the schools, bullying in the community, and bullying in the world. The accompanying teachers and adults held their own group, looking at bullying from their perspective.

At the end of the day, students and adults presented their ideas for action to a group of invited community leaders, including Mayor Marie Trainer of Haldimand County, Heidi Van Dyk of Norfolk County Council, Marion Macdonald of the Grand Erie District School Board of Education – Six Nations Trustee, Mike MacDonald of the Safe Schools Committee of the Grand Erie District School Board of Education, Crystal Silverthorne of Voices Unlimited, and Deb Young of Haldimand-Norfolk REACH.



This was, as planned, truly a day of the leaders of tomorrow talking to the leaders of today. The words that follow are the words of the youth collected from their discussions and presentations. Their hope is that this information and these ideas may be useful to the community and youth near and far.

The Name It 2 Change It Bullying Prevention Campaign thinks differently about bullying in our world. Our assumption is that the problem is the problem not the person. This understanding of “Bullying” as the problem means that the person using bullying needs assistance to free their life from it just as much as the person experiencing bullying. We can all then join together to resist what “bullying” wants for our schools, communities, and world.



BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

“Bullying,” continues to find it’s way into our schools despite many prevention efforts by everyone. It comes in many different forms, each with different effects on us. We notice some of the main forms bullying takes includes physical, verbal/swearing, gossip, cyber, excluding, giving a person a note with mean things on it, vandalism, threatening, force, and lying.

When “bullying” happens to us in our schools it leaves us feeling depressed, scared, upset, left out, worthless, unhappy, sad, criticized, frustrated, confused, unloved, with no confidence, and crushed.

In response to “bullying” we have come up with many ways that we take a stand to feel better and have a safe place to learn. Some of our ideas and strategies include: walk away, don’t listen, stop the rumours, block or delete the hurtful messages, let the person being excluded into the circle, give the hurtful notes to a teacher or put in the garbage, repair the vandalism, tell someone about the threats, don’t do the thing that someone is trying to force you to do.

Despite the problem of “bullying” we continue to work towards how we want our schools to be. Some ideas about what will be different at our schools when “bullying is no longer a problem include: no graffiti, no littering, everyone together, all friendly,

cops at schools for kids to talk to, extra teachers outside on the playground, swear jar and frown jar in class rooms, no name calling, lunch helpers, student groups to talk to others, tree planting, lots of ways to do good for others.

We also have some ideas for the adults and our community leaders to consider to help us make our schools a safer place to learn and to help us keep our lives free of bullying. These suggestions include: put more teachers on the playgrounds, supervisors on the school buses, hall monitors, funky, happy music on the school buses, security cameras in the hallways, set up a buddysystem, posters, clear consequences for bullying, bring parents into the discussion, student committees, put on a skit about the problems of bullying, then ask the students to come up with solutions, anonymous box to report bullying, peer mediators, grown-ups to talk to special class of kids who use bullying, go back to our classrooms and teach kids what we learned here today!

We hope the adults and leaders will hear these ideas and work with us to continue to address bullying in our schools.





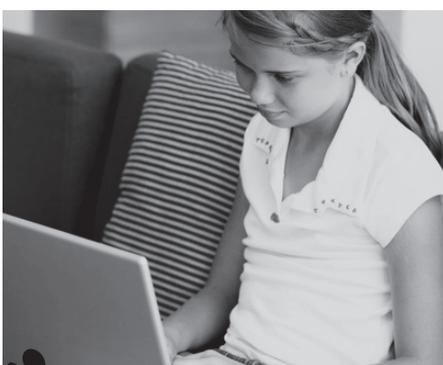
BULLYING IN THE COMMUNITY



“Bullying” is not only in our schools but resides in our communities as well. “Bullying” is a bad choice. Many of us make this mistake. Sometimes there are adults who hit their kids and throw things at them. There are teachers who pick on one specific kid or a group of kids. There are bosses who pick on their workers, and make them do things they don’t make other workers do. We know better, so we can do better.



“Bullying” tries to make us feel unsafe in our own community in areas where there are a lot of people around, or at dances when parents are not there, or when adults are drinking, when it is dark outside, walking to school or around town when groups of teenagers are hanging out, in places where we don’t know people, when there is racism, when parents are abusive or when they fight in front of us.



We’ve seen “Bullying” happen in different spaces and places in our communities including: in hockey, you get called names, told ‘you suck’, getting criticized in dance because you’re not as flexible as the others, winners saying ‘you suck’ to the losers of a game, bullying in the streets – pushing each other around, calling names, bullying between people who know each other, bullying outside the library in Simcoe (a hang out place), physical fights at parks, downtown Simcoe feels scary because there’s a lot of people hanging out, big cities are scary because of things we hear on the news, younger kids in a family are picked on by their older brothers and sisters, kids who have more stuff pick on kids who have less stuff, you get picked on if you’re not cool, or not the strongest, or if you’re different in some way, bullying can happen between friends, students bully teachers, too – talking back, yelling at them, saying “Make me.”, bullying over the computer can get lots of others involved, it’s easier to say nasty things on the computer than to someone’s face, people can be nice in person but mean on MSN

(continued on pg.5)





“Bullying” even finds encouragement and support in our fun and through our sports. We’ve seen and heard unsportsmanlike conduct by parents or coaches, crowds cheering when fights break out, trash talk, show-offs, violence, booing, coaches benching people, competition can bring out the worst in people, sexism – not allowing girls to compete or join, and laughing at others when they’re trying out. All these acts can support “bullying”.

Despite this the adults in our lives and community leaders can make our communities safer. We need adults who will watch out for children – responsible adults. Adults can stay close by (kids won’t use bullying in front of adults). The media needs to stop showing bullying as a good thing. We shouldn’t have dark alleys and places where people can bully others easily.

Other ideas include: signs ‘ No Loitering’ – with fines, teachers might stop bullying if the principal was watching them, we need more police, we need more punishment for people’s actions, passing by the high school can be scary for younger kids – high school kids could come to younger schools to talk to us, and they can be aware of how they can make us feel more welcome and safe, girls are pressured to look like Barbie, often by adults who should know better

When we think about building a community with ‘no bullying’, ideas come to mind about how we act with each other and how we act and think about ourselves. Everyone would be nice to each other, showing Control, Compassion and Confidence. It’s how things are said, it’s how we take it (use our control and confidence). So we have choices about how we are and how we want our communities to be. Playgrounds would not be vandalized, there would be no garbage or litter, schools would have kind teachers and students would be kind to teachers in return, we could talk to the people bullying and ask them to stop, we would stand up for our friends. We could even have buildings made of food so no one would go hungry.

RESPECT!

R: RACISM!

Treat everyone as equals. No matter our skin color or our race we are all equals. Our skin color does not make us weird, it makes us unique.

E: ENVIRONMENT!

Stop polluting our environment. It effects the things around us like plants, animals, humans, and the land. Pick up litter. Turn off the lights at home. Use your bike instead of your car. Reuse, reduce, recycle because killing the Earth is bullying the Earth.

S: SELFISH?

All the countries should help each other and share what we have. Being selfish is a form of bullying... it is taking everything for yourself. Therefore it’s not about money and power, it’s about giving. Don’t be selfish.

P: PEACE

Peace brings love

E: EQUAL RIGHT!

We need equal rights for every person so if we don’t leave anyone out nothing will get worse. But if we leave out women or new comers they will have hurt feelings and not feel important. We need to include everyone to keep a bullying free world.

C: COURAGE

Courage to stand up to bullying in our world.

T: TEAMMATE!

Treat people nicely. Teamwork helps the world.





BULLYING IN THE WORLD

“Bullying” and its effects are seen and felt all around our world. There is environmental bullying – litter, spray painting on walls, economic bullying like the recession in which we can help our families through by watching what we buy and being realistic about what we expect from our parents. There is “bullying” of animals like dog fights – and other ways people get money by hurting animals. Bullying can come from cyber threats, racism, the media, war, hate mail, pollution, and terrorism. We know we live in a global world. This “bullying” in the larger world has a trickle down effect to communities and families.



It effects everyone and animals everywhere! There are people who live in war zones like Afghanistan, and Iraq, or poverty like countries in Africa. People and animals lose land and homes. People are going hungry. There is environmental damage causing health issues like asthma and cancer. The stress of these issues can cause conflict between people.

We imagine the reasons for this “world bullying” have to do with power, jealousy, greed, and fear. These are common reasons, but they are not good reasons.

“All the countries should help each other and share what we have. Being selfish is a form of bullying ... it is taking everything for yourself. Therefore, it’s not about money and power, it’s about giving and treating everybody the same.”



“Treat everyone equal – no matter your skin colour or your race, we are all equals. Our skin could be white, black, purple or yellow – it does not give us the right to judge. Skin colour does not make us weird; it makes us unique.”

“We need equal rights for every person – if we don’t leave anyone out, things won’t get worse, but if we leave out women or newcomers, they will have hurt feelings and not feel important. We need to include everyone to keep it a bullying-free world.”

Despite how “bullying” tries to be a part of our world we have many ideas how to respond and make a safer place to live. We seek to have serious conversations about serious issues (not just making us afraid). We can be more aware of the world and what’s happening in it. It’s important to us that there is education for people in all countries, more fair votes and elections. We think the ability to voice protest to governments without fear and to advocate for people being hurt can help. Don’t be selfish, be responsible, help people, deal with crime and promote safety and respect. With increased security and safety and when we listen to each other we are role models for compassion and sympathy.



WE BELIEVE

Presentation by the adults

[Sung to the "Boom-De-Ah-da I Love....song"]

Start: Boom-De-Ah-De, Boom-De-Ah-De,
Boom-De-Ah-De, Boom-De-Ah-De
[continue humming tune quietly as
each line is spoken out loud]

[Loud "Boom-De-Ah -De" between
each line altogether]

We believe that all children have a voice,

We believe in the power of listening,

We believe in safe schools for all.

We believe in adults and children working together

We believe in consistent rules and expectations,

We believe in CONFIDENCE
[say] "Oh yeah!"

We believe in COMPAS ION
[action: point to head] "think about it"

We believe in CONTROL
[action: pull back reins] " Whoa!"

[Loudly together and pointing to crowd]
WE BELIEVE IN YOU!!

[Boom-De-Ah-Da ends just before last line]

THANK YOU

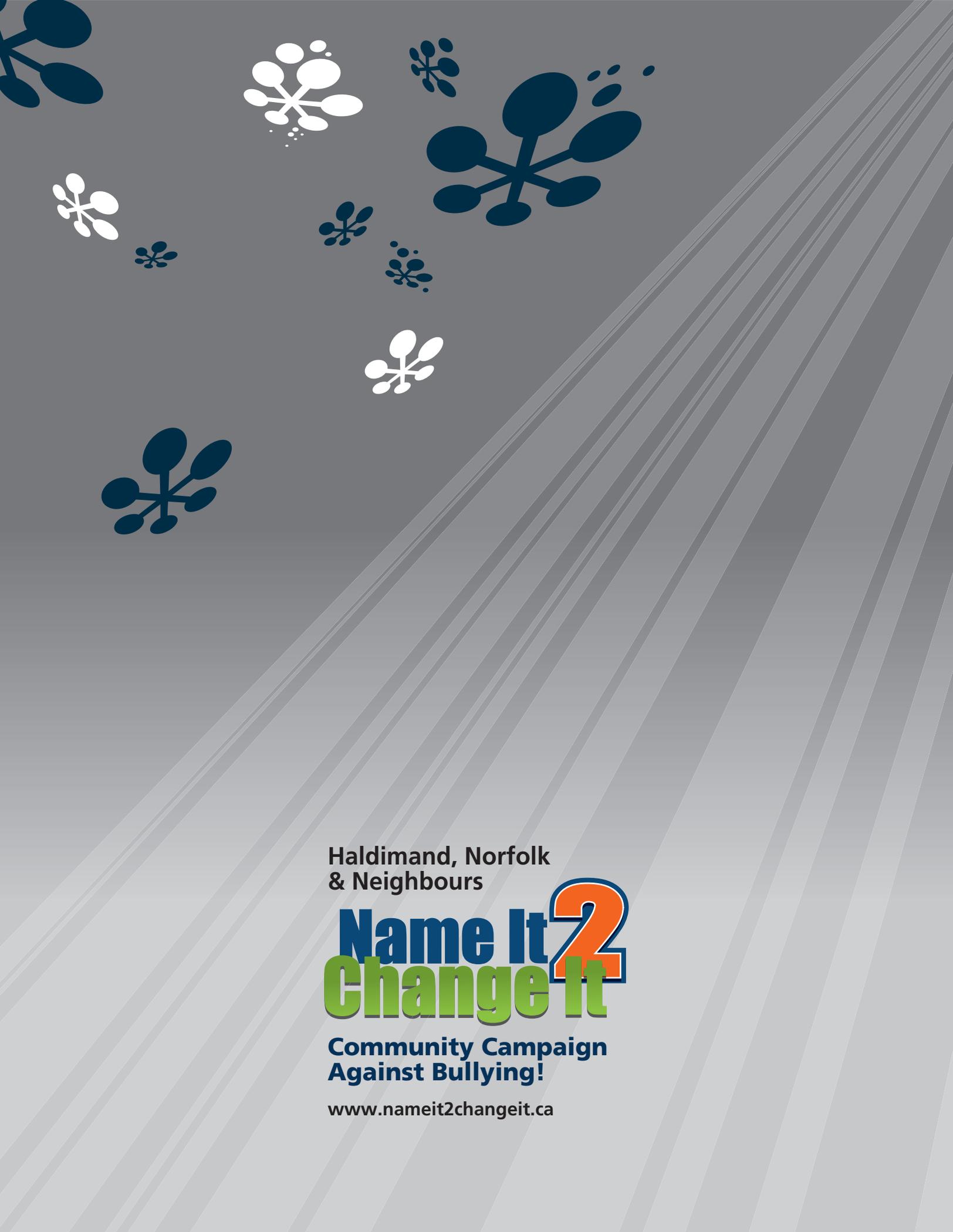
We would like to acknowledge the special contribution of all our community partners and agencies for their important contributions to the 2009 Youth Festival. It's with the spirit of collaboration and great generosity that these days are made possible.

Name It 2 Change It is a community based collaborative funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and administered through Haldimand-Norfolk REACH. Other members of the collaborative include:

- Haldimand – Norfolk Women's Services
- Voices Unlimited
- Haldimand-Norfolk Public Health Unit
- Grand Erie District School Board
- Haldimand and Norfolk Detachments, Ontario Provincial Police
- Brant Haldimand Norfolk Roman Catholic School Board
- Six Nations Child and Family Services
- Ontario Works
- Ontario Early Years Centre, Haldimand-Norfolk REACH
- Youth Justice Services, Haldimand-Norfolk REACH
- Child Clinical Services, Haldimand-Norfolk REACH
- Big Brothers/ Big Sisters H-N

The Name It 2 Change It Community Bullying Prevention Campaign seeks to encourage creative solutions to the problem of bullying in Haldimand-Norfolk. We believe that we have the power and the will to create a kinder, safer community for us all.





Haldimand, Norfolk
& Neighbours

**Name It²
Change It**

**Community Campaign
Against Bullying!**

www.nameit2changeit.ca