THIS YEAR, THIRTEEN MILLION AMERICAN CHILDREN WILL BE BULLIED, AND THREE MILLION STUDENTS WILL BE ABSENT BECAUSE THEY FEEL UNSAFE AT SCHOOL. THIS MAKES BULLYING THE MOST COMMON FORM OF VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY. JUST THINK, ONE OF THESE SCARED, BULLIED CHILDREN COULD BE YOUR CHILD, YOUR NIECE OR NEWPHEW, YOUR COUSIN OR YOUR FRIEND.

ALTHOUGH SOME MIGHT SEE BULLYING AS KIDS JUST MESSING AROUND, IT IS MUCH MORE SERIOUS THAN THAT AND CAN CAUSE SERIOUS AND LASTING HARM. BULLYING HAS BEEN PROVEN TO LEAD TO MUCH MORE SERIOUS EFFECTS INCLUDING SCHOOL SHOOTINGS AND EVEN SUICIDE. BULLYING STATISTICS SAY THAT REVENGE IS THE STRONGEST MOTIVATION FOR SCHOOL SHOOTINGS, AND SUICIDE RATES AMONG TEN- TO FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLDS HAS INCREASED MORE THAN FIFTY PERCENT OVER THE LAST THIRTY YEARS. IN TWO-THOUSAND-AND-FIVE, TWO-HUNDRED-AND-SEVENTY CHILDREN IN THIS AGE GROUP COMMITTED SUICIDE.

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF BULLYING, BUT MOST INVOLVE THE IMBALANCE OF POWER, INTENT TO CAUSE HARM AND REPETITION OF THE BULLYING AT HAND.

WHETHER IT BE NAME-CALLING, TEASING, SPREADING RUMORS, GETTING PHYSICAL OR BULLYING VIA THE INTERNET OR OTHER DIGITIAL TECHNOLOGIES, NO CHILD SHOULD HAVE TO EXPERIENCE THIS TYPE OF PAIN.

MAKE IT BETTER STRIVES TO STOP BULLYING IN LOCAL SCHOOLS. WE WANT TO MAKE SCHOOL THE FUN, EDUCATIONAL, COMFORTABLE PLACE THAT IT SHOULD BE FOR STUDENTS, NOT SOMEWHERE THEY DREAD GOING EVERY DAY. WE HOST SEMINARS IN LOCAL ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS OPEN TO STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN STOPPING BULLYING. WE WOULD LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS IN YOUR AREA ABOUT THE AWFUL EFFECTS BULLYING CAN HAVE ON EVERYONE INVOLVED, AND ENCOURAGE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO DO WHAT THEY CAN TO STOP BULLYING IN SCHOOLS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MAKE IT BETTER ORGANIZATION, OUR MISSION AND HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE IT BETTER FOR OUR UPCOMING GENERATION, CONTACT MAGGIE FAIR AT FOUR-ZERO-FIVE, SIX-NINE-FOUR, FIVE-FIVE-THREE-THREE OR MAGGIE-DOT-FAIR AT O-K-STATE-DOT-E-D-U.

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