



# make it BETTER

[Stop childhood bullying.]

Make It Better • Vol. 1, No. 1 • March 2012

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## make it BETTER

The Make It Better newsletter is published monthly for employees, parents, school faculty and others interested in support of preventing childhood bullying. For more information, comments or suggestions, please contact founder Maggie Fair at 405-694-5533 or [maggie.fair@okstate.edu](mailto:maggie.fair@okstate.edu).

[Click here for a message from our president.](#)

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## Local organization makes school life better for children

Bobby Jones was always one of the bigger, stronger boys in his class. Throughout elementary school, he intimidated his classmates and often used this to his advantage. Whether his physical stature and harsh attitude earned him lunch money, candy or simply pride, Bobby always got what he wanted and didn't care how he got it.

After learning of his behavior at school, Bobby's mother, Sally Jones, decided she needed to do something to improve his attitude: she requested nonprofit organization Make It Better to come speak to her son and his classmates.

Oklahoma State University graduate Maggie Fair founded Make It Better in 2011 in an effort to stop childhood bullying. Fair is sponsoring seminars in Oklahoma middle and high schools to spread awareness about childhood bullying.

"Bullying has become progressively worse since I was in school only a few years ago," Fair said. "I really want to get through to these kids and help them realize hurting others' feelings does absolutely no

good for anyone."

Sally contacted Fair after hearing about the forming of Make It Better.

"I knew Maggie was trying to get the word out to local schools, and I wanted to help," Sally said. "It hurt me to

know that my child was hurting other children, and

I needed someone to get through to him."

Make It Better did a trial seminar at Bobby's Oklahoma City middle school, Hefner Middle School, in October 2011 to see how students, parents and school faculty would react.

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*Hefner Middle School, home of Make It Better's trial seminar in October 2011.*

## We want to Make It Better...but why?



In the past few years, bullying has become more prevalent in our schools than ever before. For some reason, many children feel the need to assert superiority over others in harmful, negative ways. These issues can often stem from bullies' own self-esteem and possibly home life issues.

Oklahoma State University graduate Maggie Fair founded Make It Better in an effort to make life better for children in schools.

"I grew up with a little sister and I have lots of young cousins," Fair said. "Children are very dear to me. No child should have to suffer through bullying, especially at school where they should be comfortable and happy."

Although the children being bullied are often the victims in these situations, Make It Better also strives to emphasize to the bullies themselves that life and school time will be more enjoyable for them as well if they attempt to get along with their peers rather than put them down.

**"No child should have to suffer through bullying, especially at school where they should be comfortable and happy."**  
-Founder Maggie Fair

Make It Better wants to teach children the value of time at school: not only the educational value, but also a time to socialize, make friends and have fun. School should be a safe environment that kids should look forward to, not be afraid of. It should be a place where they are encouraged to learn and be themselves, not be put down for who they are.

Make It Better aims to make life better for the children who will make up our future generation.

"These kids are our future," Fair said. "It sounds cheesy, but it's true. In 20 or so years, they'll be in charge. We need

to teach them a positive environment is the best environment early on."

We want to make it better for children for many reasons. We want to make life enjoyable for children not only because it is what is best for everyone's future, but also because it is what they deserve.

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Hefner Middle School Principal Dena Rogers said she thought the seminar was a success.

"The kids seemed to be really listening and taking all the information in," Rogers said. "I hope they took it to heart and learned a lot from it."

After a successful trial run at Hefner Middle School, Make It Better invites parents and public school employees to attend its parent/teacher seminar on April 27 at 9 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center of Putnam City North High School, located at 11800 N. Rockwell Ave. in Oklahoma City.

"We want to spread the message to people who didn't get a chance to see our seminar at Hefner," Fair said. "I want to let as many people as possible know about our organization, our mission and how they can help make lives better for the upcoming generation."

Sally Jones said since Make It Better's presentation at her son's school, she has noticed changes in his behavior even at home. She said the changes are subtle, but they are changes nonetheless.

"I didn't expect his behavior to change overnight," Jones said. "But in just a few months, I've noticed an improvement in his attitude. I'm no longer receiving phone calls from his school principal on a weekly basis, and he seems to be getting along a lot better with kids in our neighborhood."

Fair said the goal of the first seminar and seminars to come is to teach kids early in life that bullying doesn't benefit anyone involved.

"As we get older, we learn that putting people down really doesn't help us as much as we originally might have thought," Fair said. "I want to teach these kids that now so they can go about their lives in a positive way for themselves and their peers."

## Making it better, one school at a time

Make It Better aims to stop and prevent childhood bullying through seminars at local elementary and middle schools. Make It Better representatives will speak to students, faculty and parents who wish to attend about the negative effects of bullying on everyone involved. Bonding activities will be done with students to help them realize that life is more enjoyable for everyone if everyone can get along. For more information about Make It Better, including:

- Volunteering
- Donating
- Hosting a local seminar at your school

Contact Maggie Fair at 405-694-5533 or [maggie.fair@okstate.edu](mailto:maggie.fair@okstate.edu), or visit [www.makeitbetter.org](http://www.makeitbetter.org).



## The woman behind Make It Better



Make It Better founder Maggie Fair was born in Oklahoma City, Okla. She grew up in Oklahoma City with her parents, Michael and Sherry, and her younger sister, Amy. She graduated from Putnam City North High School with honors in 2009 and went on to attend Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla. She graduated in December 2011 with a bachelor's degree in strategic communications with an emphasis in public relations.

During her last semester at OSU, Fair began to consider building an organization of her own and contribute to a cause close to her heart, childhood bullying. The creation of Make It Better began in October 2011 when Fair started to contact

elementary and middle schools in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa areas about speaking to students, parents and school faculty. Putnam City Public Schools, Oklahoma City Public Schools and Moore Public Schools were interested in the idea and are now sponsors of Make It Better.

Fair presented a trial seminar to Hefner Middle School students and attendees in October 2011. Parents, teachers and Make It Better employees viewed the trial run as a success and hope it was a strong impact on students. Fair and fellow employees are attempting to spread awareness about the organization to students, parents and schools in Oklahoma through an introductory seminar at Putnam City North High School this week.

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