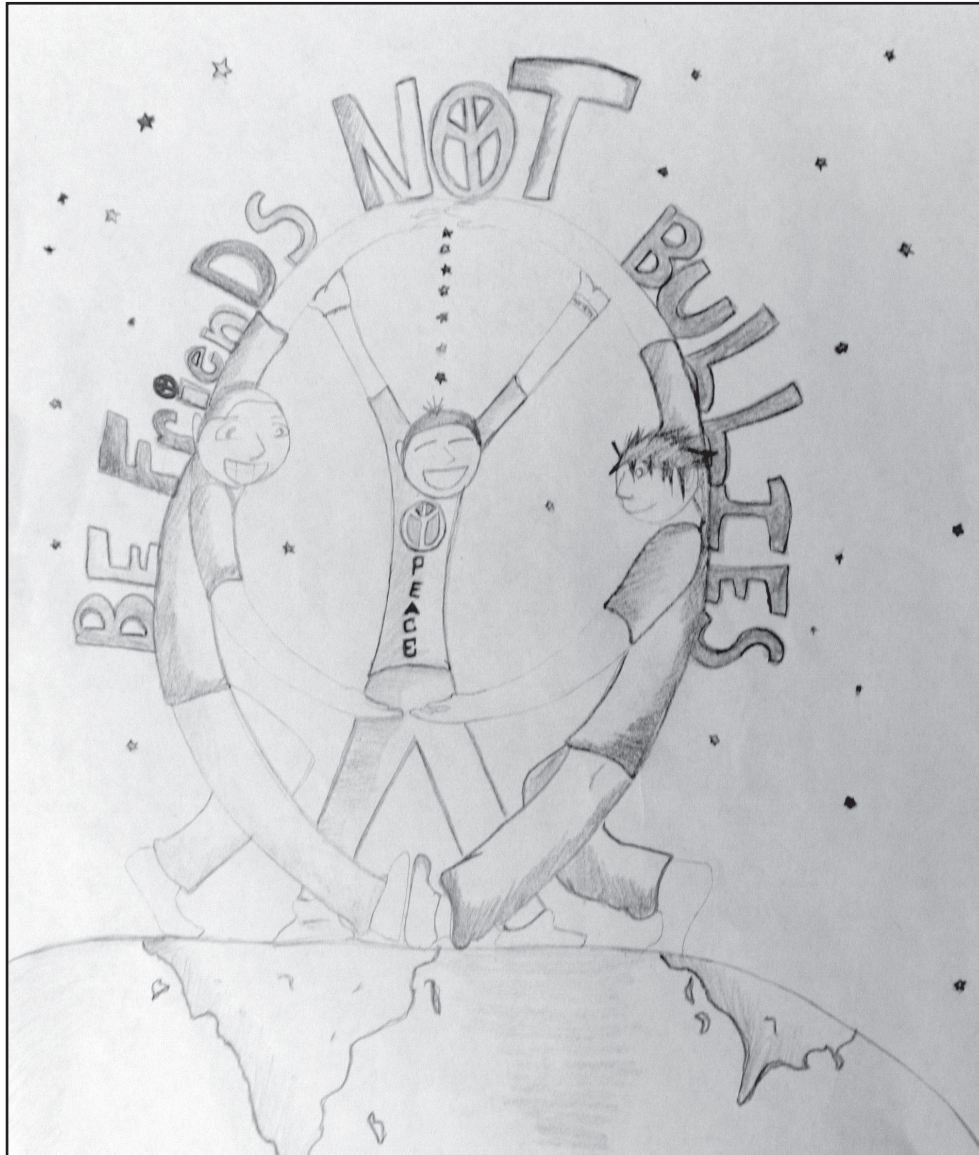


6TH ANNUAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE



By Danny Yang, Audubon Technology & Communication Center High School
Be Friends Not Bullies

*Bullying in Schools—Teaching Respect and Compassion
Through Restorative Practices*

NOVEMBER 10, 2009

6TH ANNUAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Bullying in Schools—Teaching Respect and Compassion Through Restorative Practices

SCHEDULE

8:30 A.M. — REGISTRATION

Continental breakfast will be served.

9 A.M. — WELCOME

Master of Ceremonies

Mike Gousha

Distinguished Fellow in Law and Public Policy
Marquette University Law School

Justice Janine P. Geske (ret.)

Distinguished Professor of Law
Marquette University Law School

Joseph D. Kearney

Dean and Professor of Law
Marquette University Law School

Jeffrey J. Altenburg

Deputy District Attorney, Milwaukee County
Community Prosecution, Restorative Justice and
Alternatives to Incarceration, Criminal Justice Facility

Richard K. Ruminski

Special Agent in Charge of FBI, Milwaukee
Will present the Director's Community Leadership Award

Distinguished Professor of Law Janine Geske and the Marquette University Law School Restorative Justice Initiative will be honored with the Director's Community Leadership Award from the FBI. The award is presented on behalf of the Director of the FBI to individuals and organizations in recognition of their efforts to combat crime, terrorism, drugs, and violence in America. Nominations are made by each of the 56 local FBI field offices. In Spring 2010 Geske will be honored by FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, III with other recipients at a ceremony at FBI headquarters in Washington, DC.

STUDENT ART AND ESSAY CONTEST PRESENTATION AND SPECIAL COMMENTS

The Honorable Tom Barrett

Mayor
City of Milwaukee

William G. Andreopoulos

Superintendent
Milwaukee Public Schools

9:30 A.M. — THE POWER DYNAMICS OF BULLYING: NEGOTIATING THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WORLD OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY Dr. Brenda Morrison

Co-Director of the Centre for Restorative Justice and
Assistant Professor, School of Criminology
Simon Fraser University, British Columbia

10:30 A.M. — "I WAS A STUDENT BULLY"

Student panel discussion moderated by
India McCause
Executive Director, Literacy Services of Wisconsin

NOON — LUNCH

A complimentary box lunch will be provided.

12:45 TO 1:45 P.M. — BREAKOUT SESSION I (SELECT ONE SESSION)

- Discussion A: *What Is a Restorative Justice Circle?* **Room 227**
Kristi Y. Cole, Director, Safe Schools/Healthy Students, Milwaukee Public Schools
Paul Dedinsky, Assistant District Attorney Milwaukee County
Community Restorative Practices Coordinator, Milwaukee Public Schools
- Discussion B: *Legal Consequences of Bullying* **Room 163**
John T. Chisholm, District Attorney Milwaukee County
- Discussion C: *Cyberbullying and Social Interaction with Technology—How to Talk with Your Child* **Room 157**
Melissa Thompson, Principal, Waukesha West High School
Mary Jane Whitty, Guidance Counselor, New Berlin Eisenhower High School
Paul Kaye, School Liaison Officer, New Berlin Eisenhower High School

2 TO 3 P.M. — BREAKOUT SESSION II (SELECT ONE SESSION)

- Discussion A: *Impact of Violence on Learning* **Ballroom**
Victor Barnett, Founder, Running Rebels
Paulina de Haan, Community Coordinator for Police District 2, Safe Streets Initiative, Marquette University Law School
Ronald Johnson, Community Coordinator for Police District 5, Safe Streets Initiative, Marquette University Law School
- Discussion B: *How MPS Is Using Circles to Deal with Bullying Issues* **Room 227**
Kristi Y. Cole, Director, Safe Schools/Healthy Students (MPS)
David Lerman, Assistant District Attorney, Milwaukee County, and Community Restorative Practices Coordinator with MPS

3 P.M. — STARFISH AWARDS

These awards will recognize, as "unsung heroes and heroines," individuals who make a vital contribution to the lives of Milwaukee-area youth. The awards are made possible by a grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Make-a-Difference Fund, and Lubar Family Foundation.

3:30 P.M. — CLOSING COMMENTS

Janine P. Geske

STARFISH AWARD

There was a woman who was out for a walk on the beach along the ocean. In the distance, she sees a child repeatedly bending, picking something up, and throwing it into the water as the tide recedes. She gets closer and sees that there are thousands of starfish lying on the beach under the hot sun, dying. She again looks at the little boy and realizes he is trying to throw the starfish back into the water to save it. She approaches him and says, "What are you doing? Don't you see that there are thousands of starfish here and that you cannot make a difference by throwing a few back into the water?" He bends down, picks up another starfish and says, "Makes a difference to this one."

★ **SISTER CLARA ATWATER**

Sister Clara Atwater is a true "living saint" in our city. As founder of the nonprofit Gingerbread Land, Inc. on the north side, and as a spiritual leader of True Love Church, she has stood strong in the face of some of society's most destructive elements, such as drugs, poverty, and apathy.

In the late 1980s, Sister Clara sold her home in Sherman Park and moved into a worn-down house at 2633 N. 1st Street in the Harambee neighborhood, which would become the first Gingerbread House. In a neighborhood that has long struggled with crime, she began to create what would become Gingerbread Land, taking in babies that were born to drug-addicted mothers. For these children, she essentially became their stand-in mother, not only by providing the basics to counter the physical trauma of being born into addiction, but also providing for their emotional and spiritual development.

Over two decades, Sister Clara's program eventually took on more than 400 children of all ages. As Gingerbread House grew into Gingerbread Land, she would obtain house after house on that block of 1st Street, sprucing up the exteriors with a colorful paint scheme and ornamentation. Today, she has homes that house the foster youth, as well as some families that would otherwise be homeless.

Sister Clara earned the respect of neighbors, and her presence ensures that negative activity is not welcome on her block. She also established a community garden on the southwest corner of 1st and Center Streets, and shares the harvest with the neighborhood.

Working with our city's most vulnerable young children, she has set an example for helping to build up our community, one person at a time.

★ **SISTER JEAN ELLMAN, S.S.D.N.**

Sister Jean Ellman, School Sisters of Notre Dame (S.S.D.N.), is a tower of faith and stability in the Hispanic community. After moving to Milwaukee from Stevens Point, Wisconsin, Sister Jean had many roles. She taught middle school at St. Anne School, became a teacher and principal at Bruce-Guadalupe

Community School, undertook a Hispanic Ministry Program at St. Andrew's in Delavan, and worked at St. Patrick's Parish in Whitewater.

In 1993, Sister Jean began her work at Nativity Jesuit Middle School, a new school designed to help Milwaukee Latino youths succeed. In 1996, a sister school for Latina youths, Notre Dame Middle School, opened with Sister Jean's help. She began teaching at Notre Dame Middle School in 2004, and has been the principal since 2008. Sister Jean Ellman's resumé is a quarter-century-plus testimony of her commitment to education, to children, to underprivileged and at-risk youth, and to Milwaukee's Hispanic community.

What we are here to celebrate today with this Starfish Award are those details hidden within Sister Jean's already impressive resumé. In her job descriptions, she mentions that she is a "family visitor." She wants to know each child and each child's family personally. She observes families and she meets needs as she sees them: warm clothes, food, advice, spiritual guidance, encouragement—whatever will bless the family and empower students to succeed. Both inside and outside of school, she offers guidance on health, discipline, politeness, and service. In her service to others, she also models faith, wisdom, and compassion.

Sister Jean lives three blocks from Notre Dame Middle School so that she can be present to her students and their families. She distributes sandwiches to the homeless from her front porch. If the community has a problem with addiction, crime, or violence, then it is also Sister Jean's problem. By sharing a neighborhood with her students and caring for them inside and outside of school, she lays a foundation of compassion and trust upon which her students and their families can build. "Compassion" means to "suffer with." Sister Jean does suffer with her students and their families. Even more importantly, whether there is suffering or success and celebration, she is so much a part of them that the community's story is her story.

★ **CHARLES REESE**

As the Program Director for the Milwaukee chapter of the I Have A Dream (IHAD) Program at the Clarke Street School, Charles works hand-in-hand with first and second graders to ensure they will continue from elementary school to college, with financial assistance from IHAD. Charles works to support children by offering year-round educational assistance. To reach this goal, Charles also offers support with overcoming non-educational barriers by assisting with family issues and working through community organizations. This aspect of the Milwaukee chapter of IHAD is unique, but reflects a holistic approach to address the need for increased educational opportunities for inner-city youth. Through this work, he has advocated the needs of over 60 families and linked them to hundreds of resources.

Charles' attitude helps him in this difficult work. He never gives up and is hopeful to see his work to completion. He is persistent to see the ultimate goal of the program fulfilled: college education for the children, with financial gaps funded by IHAD. This includes watching the first and second graders in 2008—the year he started as IHAD Program Director, who will graduate from high school in 2019 and 2020.

★ **RAYMOND RIVERA**

Growing up in the Riverwest area, Raymond saw many of his friends and family become heavily involved in gangs and drug activity. Raymond, however, focused his energies into martial arts and sports. His athletic talent has allowed him to help many of Milwaukee's young people realize their potential and offer them a safe and healthy way to relieve stress. He currently works as the Youth Development Specialist for the United Community Center which also involves managing the teen center programs. Through his constant motivation and mentoring, Raymond serves as an ideal role model for the youth living in the inner city.

Raymond also runs a faith-based drug and alcohol prevention program called Life Changers on the south side. This program brings in former gang members and incarcerated people to share their story of how they got back on their feet. For over a decade, he has dedicated his love and passion for young people struggling to overcome obstacles such as gangs, violence, and drugs; providing much needed mentorship, support, unconditional love, and resources to Milwaukee's inner city.

★ **OFFICER RAYMOND L. ROBAKOWSKI**

Raymond L. Robakowski is a city of Milwaukee police officer, a loving husband and father, and proud grandfather.

For most of his career in law enforcement Ray's views were traditional, but as the Community Liaison officer at MPD District 5, however, he has grown to embrace the concept of community policing. Ray is an officer who interprets the law by the book, but has the ability to make it fit the culture of the community in which he works. He is able to communicate the law with authority, and yet, maintain a respectful demeanor with the public.

Ray knows all the players in the neighborhoods: the gang-bangers, the business owners, scores of residents, the block clubs, community-based organizations, stakeholders, and leaders.

He has been so successful in building these relationships that community residents will call Ray on his cell phone and share information with him. One example of Ray's commitment to his work is his mentoring relationship with a young man who was recently released from prison. Ray met him at one of the Notification Hearings/Restorative Justice Circles in the 5th District. This young man was a known gang and drug dealer with a long history of offenses. After being released from prison, the young man was determined to turn his life around and make a positive impact. At the Circle, he and Ray connected, and Ray told him to look beyond the blue officer's uniform and see the man inside. Ray invited the young man to come to the 5th District station and talk to him anytime. A few days later, the young man showed up at the district station and a mentoring relationship developed. With Ray's assistance the young man was able to find meaningful employment and has never re-offended.

As a police officer, he has certainly witnessed the underside of humanity, but he is still able to approach the daily challenges of his profession with optimism and hope.

★ JACQUELYN SPENCE

Jacquelyn is a full-time teacher at MPS, which in and of itself is worthy of the Starfish Award. However, she has gone above and beyond the commitment required by also doing community work through the Running Rebels Community Organization. Through her work with this organization, she created a reading program that helps students read as well as confront issues they face. This includes issues of bullying, violence, and relationships. Furthermore, she developed literature to help parents navigate the sometimes confusing jargon surrounding the educational system, including definitions and answers on such acronymic terms as I.E.P, C.D., L.D., and E.B.D. She also included resources for further education success including information on graduation requirements, ACT information, and scholarship lists.

Her upbeat demeanor, diligent work, and humility display that her goals are centered on the success of the children she works with. She is so committed to her work with the children of Milwaukee that she has turned down higher paying positions to keep doing what she loves doing here with MPS and Running Rebels. All of this makes it a great pleasure to work with Jacquelyn.

★ BRADLEY THURMAN

Bradley Thurman is married and the proud father of three boys. He is also a native Milwaukeean, and a graduate of Lincoln High School in Milwaukee. In 1973, Bradley received an undergraduate degree in education from the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh. Soon thereafter, he began a 16-year career as a City of Milwaukee fire fighter. After Lieutenant Thurman retired from the Milwaukee Fire Department in 1995 he began a second career as an entrepreneur and businessman. He has owned businesses such as YO! Pizza, as well as a coffee shop, Coffee Makes You Black.

Bradley Thurman is not only a visionary but he is well respected in the business community and is known to assist and collaborate with other local businesses. Even with another coffee shop nearby, Bradley did not worry about competition. Instead, he went to offer the new owner advice, sharing of vendors, and even physical help setting up. This is only one of the many things that demonstrate Bradley's vision of unity in the community and sense of brotherhood. For the past 25 years, he has been a staunch supporter and volunteer for the Becham/Stapleton Little League baseball program in Milwaukee. Bradley has served as a coach for many years, worked in fund development and now is the

player agent and all-around handyman and good guy of the program, who serves as “a right hand man” to the owner.

When Bradley was introduced to Milwaukee's Safe Streets Program, he immediately offered office space in the coffee shop he owns to house the North-side, District 5, Community Resource coordinator, and at no cost. The program hosts many administrative functions such as community meetings and Restorative Justice Community Listening Circles. Bradley has supported this program without any monetary gain for himself.

★ LORI VANCE

Lori Vance stands for two truths. First, every child, no matter the pain and adversity he or she faces each day, has boundless potential to grow, transform, and prosper. And second, art provides an outlet to these children for self-expression, self-identification, and self-improvement. What Lori has done is join these truths together. Express Yourself Milwaukee (EYM) is a non-profit organization Lori founded six years ago to help young people realize their inner talents and rise above their daily struggles through the power of art.

Each year, Lori brings to EYM approximately 700 students with lots of baggage—learning, behavioral, emotional, or psychological disadvantages, and home lives often marred by violence, poverty, incarceration, and drug addiction. But once they arrive at EYM, they can finally release. Throughout the year, Lori immerses her students in various artistic mediums, including music, drama, dance, visual, and performance art. With the help of guest artists, including performers from Stomp, Lori's students work together towards a grand, culminating, end-of-year performance.

These children learn that they have a voice. They have the ability to express their goals and fears, to avoid the pitfalls faced by many others in their circumstances. They learn to show the world their immense, inherent worth, even if they did not initially have the courage to do so. Lori deserves this Starfish Award because she gives them that courage.

STARFISH SELECTION COMMITTEE

Marybeth Budisch
Tyrone Dumas
Margaret Henningsen
Anne Berleman Kearney

Judy Keyes
Sheldon Lubar
José Olivier
Terry Perry

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Sue Andrew
Victor Barnett
Sharon Chubbuck
Kristi Cole
Paulina de Haan
Marlene Doerr
Carol Dufek

Sigrid Dynek
Natalie Fleury
Janine Geske
Ronald Johnson
William Katt
Mary Pauly Lacy
Mary Jo Layden

India McCanse
Brigid Miller
Corinthia Van Orsdol
Christine Wilczynski-
Vogel
Yolanda Toral Zeider

RJI Law Students
William Butler
Brittany Earl
Mary Ferwerda
Lenny Fineday
Alexei Gasiorkiewicz
Rose Simon
Alap Suresh
Julia Veenendaal

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our donors.

- ★ Sue and Louie Andrew
- ★ Sigrid Dynek
- ★ Janine Geske and Mike Hogan
- ★ Harley-Davidson Motor Company
- ★ Judy Jorgensen
- ★ Judy Keyes
- ★ Mary Pauly Lacy
- ★ Mary Jo Layden

- ★ *A special thank you to Anonymous Fund, Make-a-Difference Fund, STEP Fund from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and the Lubar Family Foundation, who funded the Starfish Awards.*

- ★ Milwaukee Public Schools
- ★ William G. Ladewig
- ★ The Honorable Leah M. Lampone (retired)
- ★ McDonald's Restaurants of Southeastern Wisconsin
- ★ Corinthia Van Orsdol
- ★ The Honorable Mary E. Triggiano
- ★ V&J Foods

LEIB
& KATT, LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ART, ESSAY, AND DVD AWARD WINNERS

ART WINNERS

1st Place: Danny Yang
Be Friends Not Bullies
Audubon Technology & Communication Center
High School (ATCCHS)
10th Grade

2nd Place: David Yang
Bully Stand
ATCCHS
10th Grade

3rd Place: Joseph Kotvis
Bullying
ATCCHS
9th Grade

ESSAY WINNERS

1st Place: Nina Ceccato
*Bullying in Schools and What I Can
Do About It...*
ATCCHS
10th Grade

2nd Place: Annuchka Trejo
Stop the Bullying!
ATCCHS
10th Grade

3rd Place: BreeAnna Fisher
Bullying in School
ATCCHS
9th Grade

DVD WINNERS

Brian Butler
Marcos Delgado
James Folger
Bullying and What We Can Do About It
ATCCHS
10th Grade

BreeAnna
Fisher

Bullying In School

I think bullying is something that happens all over the world. It is something that is not right and only benefits the bully with low self-esteem and negative thoughts. It can be prevented but not completely. But we can at least try to prevent the cycle.

Bullying in school is something that can be very negative. It can lead to teen or under teen suicide, peer-pressure, and more. But the bullying can begin in very small ways, like with the simplest action or word it may eventually get bigger and form a major problem. This may lead to any of the examples that I have said. In the worst-case scenario they would become the person they feared or hated. They would become the bully. That may also mean that bullying is a pattern that may never end.

But there are ways to prevent it but not totally. So I help the situation by helping those that have been bullied, or to ignore the bully, and maybe tell the teacher if I've seen that kind of mistreatment. I can also stop the bullying by not becoming one or to see why the bully bullies the people. That would probably prevent one part of the pattern of bullying. So those are some of the things I can do to stop bullying.

Even though we really can't stop the bullying. I think we should at least try to stop the problem and notice when someone's being bullied, so we can prevent what could happen because of bullying.

Annuchka Trejo
9/22/09

Stop the Bullying!

I see bullying everywhere, so does everybody else. We have all been through it at some point in our lives. It could be a friend, or even a family member. I especially see it happen most of the time at school. It bothers me so much when I see my classmates bully each other. Someone always ends up getting hurt and put down.

I always think about what I could do to put a stop to bullying. Circles would be really effective and would help decrease bullying. I would talk to the bullies and try to figure out what are their reasons of why they push people around and hurt them in the first place. Then, I would work together with the bullies to find a solution that we can all agree to, so that it can keep them from further bullying. By having circles, the bully and their victims can talk to each other in an orderly fashion way, explain to each other the way they both feel, and how it is affecting one another. Circles keep the problem from becoming worse. It also provides a greater chance for them to become friends at the end.

Bullying often comes from personal problems that people have in their lives and are trying to overcome. Bullying is not the right way to release your feelings. Circles will help everyone understand each other and come up with a solution that everyone can agree to.

Nina Ceccato
9/28/09

Bully In Schools And What I Can Do About It...

When I think of bullies I think of these words insecurities, scared and hurt. You know we all are human beings and have problems and fears. Here's the thing I have realized....people who are happy in their lives are more unlikely to bully others. People who have insecurities and hide secret pain are more likely to bully others. People who bring others down feel that if they put others down they might feel better about themselves. Most likely the bullies have been bullied. Some bullies may even have feelings of loneliness.

When people are bullied they sometimes feel like they're in the dark. Bully victims can have lots of low self-esteem. Sometimes it can get so badly that some people have suicidal thoughts.

The question is how do we bring light into this bullying problem? I believe though great communication we can solve all problems. This is why I think every single school should have restorative justice. I have restorative justice at my high school and it has been very successful. I don't think we have much bullying problems at my high school.

If we did have a bullying problem, I would help conduct a circle. I would try my hardest efforts to help the victims as well as the bully. People in the circle can talk to the bullies and figure out why they bully and maybe the victims can even befriend the bullies. Friendship is a powerful and strong thing that can help and be an easy solution.