



For Immediate Release
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RI Parent Information Network Announces Grant Awards to 15 Rhode Island Schools and Organizations Working to Prevent Bullying

Cranston, RI – November 7, 2011 – The Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) is pleased to announce that 15 Rhode Island schools and community organizations have been awarded mini-grants of up to \$500 each to support innovative projects aimed at stopping or preventing bullying behavior in their schools and communities. Proceeds from RIPIN's 1st Annual Walk to Stop Bullying in RI last spring funded these projects.

According to Isra Hussain, a student at Lincoln High School, "I am very excited to facilitate obtaining this funding for Lincoln High School! It will enable us to bring Capstone presenter Mariane Douglas who will help us promote lifestyles of kindness and respect to students and faculty at my school, thus making us aware of, and hopefully prevent, bullying behavior. I am also excited to serve on the 2012 Walk Planning Committee!" The curricula also closely align with Lincoln HS's Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) initiative.

Planning and fundraising has already begun for the **2nd Annual WALK to STOP Bullying in Rhode Island**, to be held on May 5th, 2012 at Roger Williams Park in Providence.

The entire Rhode Island community is invited to join together to put an end to bullying in the Ocean State by **Walking the WALK to STOP Bullying**. Everyone can participate either as an individual or as a group including families, friends, schools, PTAs, students, office groups, and faith-based organizations. It will be a 3.1 mile fun walk / roll. (Participants can walk, stroller, wagon, or scooter.)

"Bullying is wide spread across all grade levels and school districts, and even continues in adulthood," says Matthew Cox, Executive Director at RIPIN. "We believe Rhode Islanders should come together and say this will not be tolerated in our schools and communities. Together, we can be the catalyst for change. We are hopeful that by investing 100% of proceeds from the Walk in community projects will help provide empowering experiences for children, youth, educators, and parents"

Funds raised from the **Walk to STOP Bullying** will support effective programs that help prevent bullying in Rhode Island.

Below are the grantees from the 1st Annual Walk to Stop Bullying in RI:

- Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School/Family Service of RI – Providence \$500
- Birchwood Middle School - North Providence - \$500
- Rogers High School - Newport - \$500
- Thompson Middle School - Newport - \$500
- Cranston High School West - Cranston - \$500
- VOWS, Inc.(Volunteers of Warwick Schools) – Warwick- \$500
- ReThinkIt Movement – South Providence, Providence - \$500
- radKIDS Personal Empowerment Program – Bristol -\$500
- Lincoln High School – Lincoln -\$500
- Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School – Johnston - \$500
- William M. Davies, Jr Career and Technical High School – Lincoln -\$500

- PAVE-(Partnership to Address Violence through Education) – Kent County- \$500
- Hugh B. Bain Middle School – Cranston -\$250
- North Providence High School – North Providence -\$250
- Ponagansett Middle School – Ponagansett - \$100

To REGISTER for the 2nd Annual Walk to STOP Bullying in RI, please go to RIPIN's website www.ripin.org and click **STOP Bullying** or please contact Linda McMullen at 401.210.0101 x 104.

Founded in 1991, the Rhode Island Parent Information Network is a non-profit organization that helps thousands of families and individuals each year in every part of Rhode Island. RIPIN's more than 18 statewide programs and services assist Rhode Islanders in becoming effective advocates for themselves and their children in school, in health care and in their communities.

RIPIN also offers a Resource Center staffed by trained Resource Specialists who answer questions about parent involvement, school issues, special education, health care, and social services.

Our mission is to assist individuals, parents, families and children to achieve their goals for health, educational, and socio-economic well being by providing information, education, training, support and advocacy for person/family centered care and systems change.

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