“It Takes A Village”
Felicia Simpson-Community Education Coordinator, Gadsden City Schools
Compassion, Sympathy, Empathy, and Passion
Research

- STI
- Counselors
- Pride Survey
- National Statistics
Why Do We Need to Educate the Community?

**National Statistics**

- 1 in 10 students miss, drop out, or change schools due to repeated bullying
- 160,000 students stay home from school each day due to bullying
- 30% of students who said they have been bullied, have brought weapons to school
- 25% of students say that teachers intervened while 71% of teachers say they intervened
This year at school, how many times have you been called names, made fun of, or been teased in a hurtful way?
- 5.9% - a little
- 7.2% - some
- 9.3% - a lot

This yr. at school, how many times have: Students threatened/forced you to do things you did not want to do?
- 2.4% - a little
- 3.1% - some
- 4.9% - a lot
While at school have you (Past Year): Been afraid a student may hurt you?
- 12.0% - a little
- 5.7% - some
- 6.3% - a lot

While at school have you (Past Year): Been hurt by a student who hit, slapped or kicked you.
- 12.6% - a little
- 6.6% - some
- 5.4% - a lot
The Real Reason We are Here!

- Have you thought about committing suicide?
  - 2.2% - a little
  - 1.8% - some
  - 2.0% - a lot

- 6% of our local students have thought about Suicide!
Community Rally

- Date
- Location
- Keynote Speakers
Powerpoint

- Organize Powerpoint with Pride Survey Data; stating the specific purpose for this rally
- It should be:
  - Compelling
  - Motivating
  - Inspiring
  - Accurate
Assemble Committee Members

- City Official
- Mental Health
- United Way
- Ministers
- Superintendent
- Community Education Coordinator
Present Powerpoint

- Central Office Staff
- Principals
- Counselors
- Community Leaders (ex. Youth Pastors, District Attorney, Juvenile Judge, Probation Officers, Chief of Police, etc)
- Children’s Policy Council
- City Council
Advertisement

- Brochures
  - Parents
  - Churches
  - Boys and Girls Club
  - Recreation Centers
  - Local Businesses
How do I appeal to my Legislators and Community Leaders?

- Prepare to host an “invitation only” reception prior to the rally for Legislators and City Officials.
- Notify Media for interview sessions
Community Rally

- Arrange Guest Speakers
  - Mayor
  - District Attorney
  - Congressman
  - Superintendent
  - Performance by students
  - Keynote Speakers
Community Partners

• Display Tables
  ◦ Counselors
  ◦ United Way Agencies
  ◦ Clubs and Organizations
Reminders:

- Media - Interviews prior to event as well as during event, live radio broadcasts, local newspapers, etc.
- Door Prizes - have local businesses to donate items
- Student Ambassadors to assist with seating guests
- SECURITY-SRO’s need to be present or provide security through the police department
• Sustainability
  ◦ Churches
  ◦ Local Merchants
  ◦ Local Organizations
    • YMCA
    • Boys and Girls Club
    • Rotary Club
If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you to go on in spite of all. And so today I still have a DREAM. ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.
Gadsden City’s Anti-bullying Rally
Mayor Guyton
District Attorney-Jimmy Harp
Superintendent-Dr. Ed Miller
Kirk Smalley-Keynote Speaker
Mix 102.9 kept us entertained
21st Century Students