Being an “upstander” rather than a “bystander” in bullying situations requires courage and risk, but individuals or groups who take the initiative to be “upstanders”—those people whom we describe as Anti-Bullying Heroes—become an impetus for change in schools and communities. Six Hero Awards will be presented at Auburn University’s Fifth Annual National Anti-Bullying Summit, June 18-19, 2015 in Peachtree City, Georgia.

**Global Anti-Bullying Heroes**

**Dr. Sameer Hinduja, Global Anti-Bullying Hero (Professional)**
Co-Director, Cyberbullying Research Center
Jupiter, Florida

Dr. Sameer Hinduja, co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center, has positioned himself at the crossroads of teens and technology and has rigorously pursued the prevention of, and response to, the problems that have surfaced there. He has also co-written five outstanding books on cyberbullying as well as published over 40 peer-reviewed scholarly publications cited over 4,000 times in a variety of fields. While traveling extensively to share information about cyberbullying research, he also teaches at Florida-Atlantic University, mentoring students there who share his passion for addressing the issue of teen bullying. His work has been featured in numerous national commentaries, including C-SPAN, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Forbes, USA Today, Fortune, NPR*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Dr. Hinduja’s work has had far-reaching impact, and he does everything in his power to make sure that the teens he addresses in assemblies, the parents he works with in communities, and the educators and mental health professionals he trains feel encouraged, empowered, and equipped to address cyberbullying. His philosophy is that research must translate to practice—best practices evolve from studying the phenomena of cyberbullying and sharing the findings with youth and youth-serving professionals in the trenches.

The Cyberbullying Research Center serves as one of the internet’s most important resources, accessible to anyone, for facts and solutions. Despite all of these accomplishments, Dr. Hinduja remains humble and accessible, truly focused on helping targets of bullying.
Ms. Trisha Prabhu, Global Anti-Bullying Hero (Student)
Software Developer, “ReThink”
Napierville, Illinois

In 2013, Trisha was shocked and angry to learn that a young Florida girl had committed suicide due to repeated bullying on the internet, and she set out to find a long-term solution to cyberbullying. Her research let her to create a technology product, ReThink, an innovative patented software product that stops cyberbullying before the damage is done. When someone tries to post an offensive message on social media, ReThink uses patented context sensitive filtering technology to determine whether or not it’s offensive and gives the writer a second chance to reconsider his or her decision. Research using ReThink has shown that, given this opportunity, the overall willingness of the average adolescent to post an offensive message is reduced to 4%. Trisha’s ReThink project won her a place as a Google Science Fair 2014 Global finalist; she also won first prize at 1871, Chicago’s technology and entrepreneurial hub.

Trisha currently holds a provisional patent with the United States patent and Trademark Office for her ReThink product. She has increased awareness of the silent pandemic of cyberbullying through numerous public speaking engagements, including a “remarkable Disruptor” presentation at TEDxTeen London in October 2014 and TEDxGateway in Mumbai, India, in November 2014. Trisha has been selected as the Global Teen Leader by the We Are Family Foundation, and during Spring 2015 she will be collaborating with global mentors to further her initiative to conquer cyberbullying.

Corporate Anti-Bullying Hero

Centene Corporation, Corporate Anti-Bullying Hero
Clayton, Missouri

Centene Corporation and its subsidiary, Cenpatico, teamed up with Children’s National Health System and Howard University to stop bullying through education and empowerment. The Anti-Bullying Campaign, “No Bullying Zone,” educates students, teachers, and parents across the country on how to prevent, identify, and appropriately intervene with bullying in school-aged children. The initiative kicked off in October 2013 during the National Anti-Bullying Awareness Month, and the collaboration will run for three years.

The first year, Centene visited schools across the country with award-winning children’s author, Michelle Bain, to conduct school assemblies with Bain reading her book Splotch the Madpole Does a Whole Lot of Bullying. Bain also brought mascot Darby and a traveling anti-bullying graffiti wall for students to sign and take a pledge against bullying. The “No Bullying Zone” campaign traveled more than 16,000 miles to 19 schools across the country, from Washington, D.C., to Westmoreland, California. Approximately 19,000 anti-bullying books and its accompanying parents’ guide were distributed in the campaign’s first year.

The second component of the campaign will be a multi-media traveling exhibit to children’s museums and/or children’s hospitals. The second and third years will be geared towards an educational training for school teachers, administrators, and support staff to equip them with the right identification,
intervention, and prevention measures to take when they notice bullying or the early signs of bullying.

**Community-based Anti-Bullying Hero**

Sir Dalvin Holloman, Community-based Anti-Bullying Hero (Student)

Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta (Carver Boys and Girls Club, Edgewood Community)

Sir Dalvin Holloman has been an active member of the Carver Boys & Girls Club since he was seven. He has been a driving force in teen-led initiatives including an anti-bullying campaign and MAD IRL (Mobilizing a Difference in Real Life) which aims to educate and provide students with information to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others. He serves as a Camp Staff member at the BGCMA residential camp, and speaks with members eight years and older about compassion, respect, and anti-bullying. The Carver Boys and Girls Club has a low incidence of bullying in part due to Sir Dalvin Holloman and his club’s dedication to keeping the message alive and in practice. According to a BGCMA spokesperson, “Sir Dalvin takes the time to talk, write, and act toward the goal of no child feeling bullied or less than others; he is this person at all times, and it shows.”

Sir Dalvin also volunteers as a caregiver to the elderly at Bethlehem Senior Citizens Center. He is a senior at Carver Early College High School, with dual enrollment at Atlanta Metropolitan College. He is a member of the ROTC, Red Cross Club, and an Ambassador of Goodwill.

**School-based Anti-Bullying Heroes**

Dr. Quentin Fretwell, School-based Anti-Bullying Hero (Professional)

Safe Schools Coordinator, DeKalb County Schools, Georgia

Dr. Quentin Fretwell, Safe Schools Coordinator for the DeKalb County Schools District, was a contributor to the Model Bullying Policy for the State of Georgia and co-authored the DeKalb County School District’s policy. He designed the Bullying, Harassment, and Hazing Campaign to bring awareness of the problem of bullying and harassment and the steps the District was taking to help students, parents and other stakeholders understand that these behaviors were wrong and would not be tolerated from anyone, including adults. He implemented Bullying Awareness Month in 2011, and designed a Bullying Icon that contains documents to help 232 trained bullying liaisons when working in schools.

The policies and programs that he put in place have improved the school climate and culture of DeKalb County Schools, resulting in students feeling safe in school as indicted in Safe School Audits completed for each school twice each year. Dr. Fretwell has served as a speaker on

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**Hero Award Recipients**

5th Annual Anti-Bullying Summit
bullying at many events, including Parent-Teacher Association meetings, national and regional conferences such as the Georgia Summit on Youth Issues and Auburn University’s Anti-Bullying Summit, and various radio shows and newscasts. Throughout Dr. Fretwell’s 32 years in education, his focus has consistently been building a positive and safe school climate in which students learn best.

Mr. Jeb Crosby, School-based Anti-Bullying Hero (Student)  
Kinston High School --Coffee CountyKinston, AL
Special needs students are very often victims of bullying. Their peers, while feeling empathetic, are afraid to take a stance because it might jeopardize their own social acceptance among their peers. When Jeb Crosby was a kindergarten student at Kinston High School, he noticed that one of his classmates with Down syndrome was being ignored and bullied by other students. He said, “This is my friend Sarah. She is talking to you, and you shouldn’t be mean to her.” His awareness that students with special needs need friendship and respect has set an example of kindness in his school. “As with many things in life, the smallest gesture can lead to a domino effect which has the power to positively affect many others.”

Jeb, now a fourth-grader, was nominated for this award by his school’s media specialist who has observed his positive impact on the school’s climate.