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2nd annual anti-bullying kick-off @ downtown library

Community Partners Gather for "Bullying Stops Here" Campaign

Students from Maple West Elementary School in Williamsville and King Center Charter School in Buffalo participated in the second annual "Bullying Stops Here" announcement at the downtown Central Library this morning where more than a dozen human service organizations joined forces with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System for a community-wide, month-long anti-bullying awareness initiative. The "Bullying Stops Here" campaign includes a centralized calendar of upcoming themed events taking place across Erie County.

Library System Director Mary Jean Jakubowski, New York State Senator Mark J. Grisanti, Erie County Legislator Edward Rath, Erie County Clerk Chris Jacobs, Press Secretary to the Erie County Executive- Peter Anderson, Buffalo Deputy Mayor Ellen Grant, Buffalo Public Schools administrator William Keresztes, Buffalo State College student Lyndsay Raymond and writer/performer Annette Daniels-Taylor unveiled details of "Bullying Stops Here" by signing a banner pledging their support in the stand against bullying. Representatives were also on hand from the offices New York State Senator Timothy Kennedy and United States Senator Kristen Gillibrand. Banners will be in all 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries during the month of October for patrons to sign showing their commitment against bullying.

"Now is the time to join together with one voice and say that we will not stand for bullying ever again. Wherever and whenever we see it, we must speak out to stop bullying and the pain that it causes, which can hurt people throughout their lives, " said Peter Anderson, representing Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz.

"Every member of a civilized society has a duty to fight against bullying.

In my position as a Senator I have and will continue to fight against bullying, by supporting legislation aimed at protecting individuals from being bullied, while holding those who bully responsible for their actions. Bullying exists in many forms and places and knows no limits to its targets. Only by working together to oppose bullying can we be successful," said Senator Grisanti.

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"Today, with our partners, we ask Western New Yorkers to join us as we pledge that "*Bullying Stops Here*" in Erie County in October and every month. Let's promote respect for diversity while we combat harassment, discrimination and bullying, and support each other with kindness and fairness," said Library Director Jakubowski.

Libraries, Erie County Hall, and the partner sites will have the printed "*Bullying Stops Here*" calendar with activities taking place with a focus on the anti-bullying/peaceful coexistence theme. The calendar also lists more than a dozen web resources from local and national organizations that provide services to those who feel they are being treated differently or unfairly because of race, color, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or age.

"Bullying Stops Here" Partner Organizations

- · County of Erie
- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System
- · Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo
- Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
- · Buffalo Public Schools
- · Character Council of Western New York
- Child & Adolescent Treatment Services
- · Crisis Services of Western New York
- · Child Care Resource Network
- Erie County Commission on the Status of Women
- Erie County Office of Advocacy
- Erie County Office of Disability Services
- · Erie County Office of Social Services
- · Erie County Sheriff's Office

- Gay & Lesbian Youth Services
- International Institute of Buffalo
- Journey's End Refugee Services
- National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York
- · Parent Network of Western New York
- People Inc.
- Self Advocacy Association of NYS
- University at Buffalo Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention
- Western New York Independent Living Center
- Western New York Peace Center
- · Western New York United Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse
- Western Region PTA

For more information: call 716-858-8900, visit any Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, the website at www.BuffaloLib.org, or the Library's Facebook page.

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Buffalo & Erie County Public Library * 1 Lafayette Square * Buffalo, NY 14203 * (716) 858-8900 * Fax: (716) 858-6211

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