



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Ellen Rogers, 317-435-0746
ERogers87@comcast.net

Washington Township Schools Pilot Anti-Bullying Program

Indianapolis -- Ten Washington Township schools will become the first in Indiana to adopt an anti-bullying program that has gained success and recognition across the nation. *BullySafeIndiana* will debut in Washington Township as a national pilot project, in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse Indiana.

The three-day program on **Nov. 7-9** includes sessions that train educators, administrators, students and community leaders to recognize bullying and learn how to prevent it, and ongoing curriculum to reinforce anti-bullying education. The sessions will feature national expert and author, SuEllen Fried, whose BullySafeUSA program has been adopted by schools in 36 states across the nation, and has benefited more than 70,000 students. *Media members are invited to attend Monday and Wednesday sessions, for all or part of the day, and are requested to register their attendance by calling Ellen Rogers, MSDWT 317-435-0746.*

What: BullySafeIndiana Pilot Project Launch

Where: Westlane Middle School

**When: Mon., Nov. 7 through Wed., Nov 9
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

1301 West 73rd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46260-3999
(317) 259-5412

Crooked Creek Elementary
2150 Kessler Blvd W Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46228.
(317) 259-5478

OPEN HOUSE TO MEDIA SCHEDULE: (PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM/SCHEDULE TIMES)	
11/6 Sunday Morning	--In-studio interviews with SuEllen Fried available
11/6 Sunday Evening	--Live Shots at JCC Katz Arts and Book Fair at concert --Interview availability with SuEllen Fried
11/7 Monday	Media welcome
5:30-7:30 a.m.	Live interviews available prior to training
8 a.m.	Media invited to opening remarks by SuEllen Fried and Washington Township School District
11:30-3 p.m.	Media may observe training at Westlane Middle School
11/8 Tuesday	Full Day Professional Training of approximately 40 ‘Champions’
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	--Full day of workshop training at Westlane Middle School --More than 30 educators, administrators, community leaders train to become <i>BullySafeIndiana</i> “Champions”
4-7 p.m.	Available for interviews
11/9 Wednesday Noon-3 p.m.	ACTION PLANNING LUNCHEON AND BULLYSAFEINDIANA KICKOFF <i>Westlane Middle School</i> -- Administrators, teachers, counselors, staff, community leaders re-group after morning of Student Empowerment Sessions of approximately 900 students to develop next-steps “Action Plan” for Washington Township School District. The goal is to <i>Change the Culture of Bullying</i> in schools and kick-off the statewide pilot program of <i>BullySafeIndiana</i> .



“I am thrilled that the *BullySafeIndiana* program will begin its statewide launch in Washington Township,” said Director of Elementary Education, Marsha Reynolds. “The unique aspects of the program, including a session for student empowerment, will enable our schools to become shining examples for the rest of the state.”

Washington Township schools taking part in the three-day program include:

Elementary Schools:

Allisonville Elementary
Crooked Creek Elementary
Fox Hill Elementary
Greenbriar Elementary

John Strange Elementary
Nora Elementary
Spring Mill Elementary

Middle Schools:

Eastwood Middle School
Northview Middle School
Westlane Middle School

“The launch of *BullySafeIndiana* in Washington Township schools is an important step toward banning the culture of bullying in Indiana’s schools and replacing it with a culture of kindness and empathy,” said Fried. “Anti-bullying education is proven to reduce bullying behavior and improve the learning outcomes and quality of life of students.”

“SuEllen Fried and BullySafeUSA was an amazing program ... our fifth graders transformed into mature young adults,” said Crooked Creek Elementary School Principal Kim Piper. “As an administrator, I learned so much about the program and our students, and I was able to use her techniques with many other students in the building. Washington Township is so lucky to have the time to learn from such a remarkable, caring individual. I can’t wait to have more trainers in the area to work with our students.”

About BullySafeIndiana

BullySafeUSA™ is launching *BullySafeIndiana*, a statewide public education outreach campaign in collaboration with **The Villages and Prevent Child Abuse America** to distribute an effective anti-bullying curriculum to public and private schools and Indiana communities. *BullySafeIndiana*’s training system teaches teachers and parents how to empower students, and it teaches students how to monitor themselves, stand up to bullies and protect each other. Student Empowerment and Train the Trainer sessions are supported with ongoing in-school curriculum and web components. Other collaborating partners include the **National Council of Jewish Women, Indiana Section, and Tracie Wells and Company/TVWebCity**. The *BullySafeIndiana* program will pilot in Washington Township in Indianapolis before being introduced statewide, and eventually, rebranded for other states. For more information about *BullySafeIndiana*, please visit www.bullysafeindiana.com. The *BullySafeIndiana* pilot program is made possible by **Brightpoint, Browning Investments, Glick Foundation and MacAllister Machinery**.

About SuEllen Fried

SuEllen Fried, the founder of BullySafeUSA™, is a passionate advocate for children who has devoted her career to reducing the cruelty of children to each other. SuEllen and her daughter, Paula Fried, Ph.D., co-authored "Bullies & Victims: Helping Your Child Through the Schoolyard Battlefield" in 1996, three years before the Columbine tragedy and "Bullies, Targets & Witnesses: Helping Children Break the Pain Chain" in 2003. She has been a national and international speaker on the topic of child abuse and bullying and has appeared on Good Morning America, the TODAY Show, MSNBC, and was featured on an A&E Documentary, Bill Kurtis Reports, "Bullied to Death". She has been interviewed on countless TV and radio stations and written about in numerous newspapers and magazines. She travels extensively, speaking with students, educators and parents on the topic of bullying. More information about SuEllen is available at www.bullysafeusa.com.



SuEllen is giving a public presentation at JCC Katz Arts and Book Fair as part of the launch of her fourth book, *Banishing Bullying Behavior: Transforming the Culture of Peer Abuse*. It is free and open to the public, Wednesday, November 9th at 7pm.

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