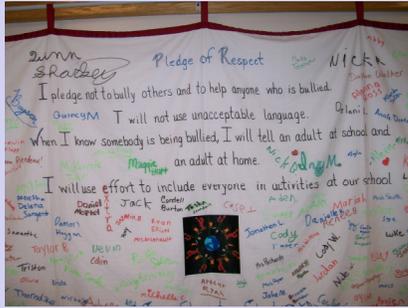


♥ Bully and Teasing Prevention in Schools



The Bullying/Teasing Prevention Program is a school-based violence prevention program. For years, we have accepted childhood bullying as a normal part of growing up. However, recent research indicates that children who bully are likely to get into trouble with the law when they become teenagers. Children who are bullied are likely to do less well in school and do become depressed or even suicidal.

As the designated child abuse prevention agency for Franklin County, the Children's Task Force sees the prevention of bullying as an important step in preventing child abuse and neglect.

After a thorough review of programs that have been developed to prevent bullying in schools, the Children's Task Force selected the Blueprints model for the Bullying Prevention program. This model has been implemented in many communities around the world and has consistently excellent research outcomes. Based on the work of Norwegian psychologist, Dan Olweus, the Blueprints model has been found to reduce bullying by 50% in a two-year period of time.

Franklin County Children's Task Force is currently implementing the Blueprints model for Bullying Prevention in eight schools, touching the lives of more the 2,000 students. The model is very comprehensive. Led in each school by a school-based coordinating committee, it involves certain school rules against bullying, weekly lessons in every classroom, and intensive interventions when cases of bullying occur.

Teachers, parents, and students responded enthusiastically to the Blueprints program. Students have learned effective strategies for responding to bullying behavior. They are making a noticeable effort to be kinder and more helpful to each other.



School Rules Against Bullying

- We will not bully other students.
- We will try to help other students that are bullied.
- We will make a point to include students who are easily left out.
- When we know someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

♥ Step Up to Sisterhood

This spring Kathy George of the Franklin County Children's Task Force teamed up with Martina Arnold, the counselor at Cascade Brook School, to offer an eight week afterschool group for girls called "Step Up to Sisterhood".

Eight girls participated in the program consisting of thought-provoking and empowering sessions discussing female aggression, rumors, positive body image, reputations, the myth of perfect beauty, handling conflict and healthy/unhealthy friendships. This program is exemplary for respecting girls, recognizing their strengths, and allowing them the opportunity to be part of their school environment in a meaningful, empowering way. The positive feedback from the girls, their parents and teachers has been overwhelming. We are hoping to continue on into middle school with another program from Hardy Girls/Healthy Women called "Adversaries to Allies".

We are making these programs available to all schools in Franklin County.

If you have any questions and/or would like to have these programs at your school, please contact us (email fcctf@fcctf.org). We will be happy to speak with you about them. This is a very exciting opportunity and we are happy to offer these strengths-based programs.



♥ Boys Mentoring and Advocacy

In the past the Franklin County Children's Task Force teamed up with Alex Ernst, a fifth grade teacher at Cascade Brook School with a background in adventure education, to offer a program called "Boys Mentoring and Advocacy". The boys were challenged to discover excellence within themselves in a cooperative and supportive atmosphere increasing their sense of personal confidence through outdoor adventures, indoor challenges and team work. This program empowers boys to re-own aspects of their own emotional lives, accept themselves as they are outside the stereotypical notions of what a man is supposed to be like and to find alternatives to the oftentimes violent and oppressive influences of their development so that they can embrace more flexible, healthy, and supported stances in their lives and in society.

