

Unity Award Recipients

- 2016 -

The “Together Against Bullying” Award

Awarded for taking action to prevent and change an attitude or behavior that physically or emotionally hurts, harms, or humiliates someone.

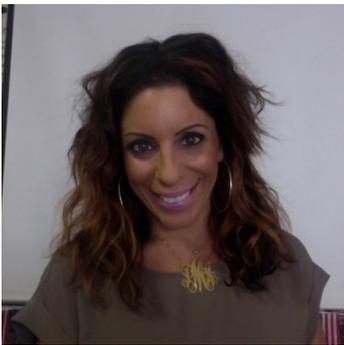


Alexis Saldana

“I would like to nominate Alexis Saldana for this or really any of the awards you offer. As this school year began Alexis was campaigning for the office of 8th grade President and she herself experienced bullying from others. Other students bullied her as they were wanting another candidate instead of her to win. This was something she had never encountered before and really was upset by the behavior of others. Instead of backing out, or ignoring it, Alexis faced the situation head on. Her speech for office included her experience and a plan for improvement. She won the election which shows most students do not agree with bullying behavior. Afterward Alexis put the experience behind her and has continued to work all year building a school environment that accepts all, includes all, and looks within each individually for what they can do.” - *Nominated by Jon Carlton, Educator*

The “United for Kindness” Award

Awarded for demonstrating outstanding act(s) of being helpful to others.



Patricia Mastropolo

“I feel like this particular individual qualifies for this award mainly because in the beginning of this school year I was really scared and shy but she helped break out of my "shell". She made me feel like I belonged and helped me with my bullying situation. In light of that, I feel that if I hadn't have told her I wouldn't have told anyone. I knew that if I told her the student bullying me would probably get mad and I didn't want that. But I knew it had to stop. She actually made him stop and he wasn't mad because she explained to him what he was doing was wrong. Now I can go to school comfortably and with ease because of her. She is the nicest person I know and she deserves recognition for all the kindness she has given.” – *Nominated by a student*

The “United for Acceptance” Award

Awarded for looking beyond the differences of others and celebrating what makes each person unique.



Meredith Warren

“Meredith Warren took someone being severely bullied and spent hours daily helping her get to where she is today, through video chat, texting, and even dropping everything just to see her. She looked beyond her disability and flaws and gave her something that she hasn't seen before - confidence. She is a wonderful person and has helped countless others with whatever it is that they need. She deserves this award.” – *Nominated by another student*

The “United for Inclusion” Award

Awarded for outstanding acts to help others feel like they belong and know that they aren’t alone.

Lockhart Elementary School

“The Lockhart School’s Primary School’s Primary Explorers, Artists and Future Architects Recess Club is comprised of approximately 35-50 students who have taken a stand to forego taking part in all forms of negative behavior, and spend their free time “creating things of beauty”. The Lockhart School’s Performing Artists In Action Club, is a social action group made up of 10 students from grades 2nd-4th who use singing, dance, chanting, skits and poetry to empower their peers and the other students at our school to turn away from bullying during recess time. I nominate this club, because students come together to enforce the virtues and citizen character skills of Kindness, Respect, Cooperation, Diversity, Compassion and Unity.” - *Nominated by JoAnne Saunders*

The Faces of Change Award

Awarded to individuals and groups for outstanding acts to make a difference in our community, nominated by PACER’s Youth Advisory Boards in Minnesota and California



Notes of Kindness Crew

“Addison, Ava, Jordyn, Teagan, and Nora, students at John Adams Middle School, wanted to brighten everyone’s day by spreading messages of hope and encouragement. Together, these 6th grade girls cut out a ton of shapes, using post-it notes, and wrote kind things on them. They then stuck 1400 notes on every student’s locker. It took the girls over two weeks to hand write and shape the notes, with messages such as ‘Smile, it looks good on you’ and ‘You are amazing in so many ways.’” – *Nominated by PACER’s Youth Advisory, Minnesota*



Orono High School Unified Club

“The Orono High School Unified Club is comprised of students with and without disabilities with a goal of fostering inclusion in their school. This club started a few years ago and has grown significantly due to the student leadership. They are truly instilling inclusion in their school through other programs such as social opportunities, academic mentoring,

fundraising efforts, speaking engagements, and bullying prevention campaigns like the ‘Spread the Word to End the Word’ campaign.” – *Nominated by PACER’s Youth Advisory, Minnesota*



Lakeview Elementary Kindness Council

“The Lakeview Elementary Kindness Council is made up of 25 fifth grade students who, under the direction and guidance of their school counselor, commit to spreading kindness across their school and the community. The Kindness Council organizes and implements a variety of activities throughout the school year to promote kindness toward others. These young people are an amazing example of how simple acts

of kindness can change the climate of a school and improve learning for all!” – *Nominated by PACER’s Youth Advisory, Minnesota*



The TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More)

“This group of students in grades 7 – 12th was originally formed a bullying prevention task force. They decided on the name TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) because they wanted to take a positive and proactive approach to preventing bullying. Each year they have organized "Kindness Week" in March. They put affirmation post-it notes on the lockers of every student and the doors of every staff. They did classroom presentation for all grade K-12. They basically got our whole community involved in focusing on kindness.” –

Nominated by PACER’s Youth Advisory, Minnesota