



May 2014

## Stark County Stands Up To Bullying

The Stark County Olweus Bullying Prevention program partners kicked off an All in Against Bullying campaign, with an art contest asking students to show how they would stand up to bullying. The partners hoped for 100 submissions; to their surprise, they received 503 original posters, billboard designs, artwork, radio scripts, film clips, t-shirt designs, slogans, and banners. Nine grand prize winners were selected from three age groups.

Winners were announced on February 6th at the Canton Charge Student Game Day at the Canton Memorial Civic Center.

Winning submissions were featured on billboards throughout the county in April. Other winners will be featured in local radio spots or will have their designs printed on next year's t-shirts.

A 2012 student survey gave a window into the depth of the problem at 22 local public and parochial schools:

- 17 percent of girls and boys (797 students) reported being bullied twice a month or more often.
- 7 percent of students reported being bullied for longer than a year.
- Girls reported being bullied more often than boys.

The Stark County Educational Service Center and the Stark County parochial schools through the Diocese of Youngstown office of Catholic Schools spearheaded this countywide effort to build awareness funded through a grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton. The [Olweus Program](#) (pronounced OI-VAY-us) is a comprehensive approach that includes school wide, classroom, individual, and community components. The program has been found to reduce bullying among students, improve the social climate of classrooms, and reduce related antisocial behaviors, such as vandalism and truancy. The Olweus Program has been implemented in more than a dozen countries around the world, and in thousands of U. S. schools.



To date, 26 Stark County schools (15 public schools and 11 parochial) have implemented the program.

**We congratulate the art contest winners in each of the three age brackets:**

**8 Years and Younger**

- Abbi Taylor, Regina Coeli School (Billboard Winner)
- Brooke Yoder, Hartville Elementary (Billboard Winner)
- Alec Pilati, Middlebranch Elementary (Billboard Winner)

**Ages 9-13**

- Cole DeLuca, Lake Elementary (Banner Winner)
- Emma Laughman, Oakwood Middle School (Billboard Winner)
- Faircrest Middle School Special Edition Commercial Class (Video will receive local media coverage)

**Ages 14-19**

- Devereaux Diaz, Glen Oak High School (Billboard Winner)
- Ambriah Phillips, Sandy Valley High School (Billboard Winner)
- Cashmere McClendon, Washington High School (Video will receive local media coverage)

The following artwork was featured on billboards:

STARK **UP** STANDS

**Against BULLYING**

Emma Laughman - Age 13  
Oakwood Middle School

**BULLYING STINKS!  
GIVE IT A REST!**

STARK **UP** STANDS

**Against BULLYING**

**BE A BULLY**

Alec Pilati - Age 8  
Middlebranch Elementary

STARK **UP** STANDS

**Against BULLYING**

Amriah Phillips - Age 15  
Sandy Valley High School

Words can be worse than wounds.  
*think before you speak*

STARK **UP** STANDS

**Against BULLYING**

Brooke Yoder - Age 8 - Hartville Elementary School

STARK **UP** STANDS

**Against BULLYING**

Abbi Taylor - Age 8  
Regina Coeli School

**Be Friends  
Not bullies**

STARK **UP** STANDS

**Against BULLYING**

*Stop Bullying*

Deveraux Diaz - Age 18  
GlenOak High School

*Protect a heart*