

BULLY BUSTERS

PROGRAM UPDATE

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Thanks to LIBRO's community builder grant, Harmony for Youth has successfully hired a co-ordinator for their new Bully Busters Program. This part-time, contract position has been filled by Anita Trusler. The contract is extended over the course of three years.

LIBRO's media release in November set the initial kick-off for our program. Harmony for Youth made a public announcement to all of our members and supporters at our annual open house on November 23rd. A Bully Busters display was created to help inform the public on facts and statistics regarding bullying and the need for our anti-bullying program. Emphasis was made on creating a safer environment for youth with the focus on peer intervention. LIBRO's logo was used in this display and LIBRO's participation in our program was well communicated. Further communication regarding the Bully Buster's Program and our partnership with LIBRO has also been encouraged at the monthly Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce, Business After Five Networking meetings.

In the first month of the grant, considerable research has been completed on existing anti-bullying programs within our community and abroad. Contacts have been made with various Sarnia-Lambton organizations who have requested to be a part of our Bully Busters team. Invitations have been extended to these organizations requesting their representation on our Bully Busters committee and our first meeting has been scheduled for January 28th, 2008. We have already had an incredibly positive response to this committee. Bully Busters has also scheduled three focus group workshops for January 19th, 26th and February 2nd. These workshops will be set up as an open forum for youth in our community to share their personal experiences with bullying. Posters advertising our workshops have been distributed to schools, churches and community groups. LIBRO's partnership with Harmony for Youth has been well illustrated on these posters. We have also forwarded information on our workshops to all of Harmony's members. We hope to gain insight from our workshops as to how best we can teach our youth the tools they need be able to develop in a more peaceful environment.

Promotional material for the Bully Busters program is being developed in the form of brochures and posters. Research is being collected for the development of the Bully Buster program manuals. Brainstorming sessions and continued training and education on bullying issues are laying the foundation for this much needed program. Thanks to LIBRO, Harmony finally has the means to tackle this problem head on!