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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### **Grants are available for Alaska teen projects to reduce and prevent violence**

*First round of grants resulted in 10 projects statewide*

ANCHORAGE — A multimedia show, an outdoor leadership program, and a school lock-in were all ways Alaska teens used their *StandUpSpeakUp!* mini-grants to help prevent violence and encourage Alaskans to “Choose Respect” in their communities.

More grants are now available. Deadline for the second and final round of applications is Jan. 15, 2014. Teens (age 13 to 18) are invited to visit [www.StandUpSpeakUpAlaska.org](http://www.StandUpSpeakUpAlaska.org) to find a *StandUpSpeakUp!* mini-grant application and learn ways they can take an active role in preventing violence in their communities. Each grant is for up to \$2,000. For more information on how to apply, teens can email [cplea@andvsa.org](mailto:cplea@andvsa.org) or call 907-586-6566.

Grants are awarded through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Section of Women’s, Children’s and Family Health (WCFH), in conjunction with *Stand Up Speak Up!*. The first round recipients were awarded in January 2013, resulting in 10 grant projects completed by teens in the following communities:

- **Juneau:** Youth hosted a multimedia show to promote positive and healthy choices and respect for youth.
- **Juneau/Gustavus:** Youth hosted an outdoor leadership program focusing on healthy relationships, peer education, self-respect and wilderness experiences.
- **Bethel:** A Teens Lead Ahead camp was hosted to bring together youth from all over the region to connect and learn how to make positive changes in their communities.
- **Ketchikan:** Teens created a youth leadership group, Stand Up 4 U Crew, to provide healthy youth activities and promote respect among their peers.
- **Old Harbor:** Youth and elders helped plan a respect march and hosted community cafes to discuss respect. Youth created digital stories to promote these messages.
- **Sitka:** The Sitka Youth Leadership Committee continued to promote respect and nonviolence through events, media messages, workshops and opportunities for youth to connect with one another.
- **Cordova:** Youth invited the Green Dot program to Cordova to engage youth and present at community events on ways to promote safety within their community. The Green Dot

program is a comprehensive approach to violence prevention that capitalizes on the power of peer and cultural influence in a community.

- **Atmautluak:** Youth hosted a school lock-in to promote positive connections with their peers and adults to focus on leadership skills and healthy alternative choices for youth.
- **Dillingham:** Youth organized monthly gatherings for teens, adults and elders to strengthen connections and hold discussions on healthy relationships, community wellness, respect and positive choices.
- **St. Paul:** Youth hosted a basketball tournament that included pre-game discussions on sportsmanship, team work, respect and nonviolence.

The projects were guided by *StandUpSpeakUp!*'s six key steps to healthy relationships: Relationship Basics; Building a Peer Culture; Respecting Yourself; Leading the Way; Keep Respect Going; and Getting Help. Through participating, grant recipients strengthen their own protective factors and well as strengthening connections throughout their community.

For more information on Governor Sean Parnell's Choose Respect campaign go to:  
<http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell/priorities/choose-respect.html>.

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