

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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### **Provine, Forest Hill and Callaway High Schools Plan Teen Safe Driving Activities in Jackson, Mississippi**

**Jackson, MS (February 20, 2012)** — Thanks to the Allstate Foundation, Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), Inc. presented a grant to 3 Jackson, Mississippi high schools to increase youth safety and promote teen safe driving. Teen safe driving awareness campaigns will be conducted during key times of the year including National Youth Violence Prevention Week, Teen Safe Driving Month (May), prom, and graduation. Chapters will be supported in their efforts by the Steven James Allstate Agency in Jackson.

Provine High School will promote safe teen driving to coincide with Prom with events such as X the TXT and fatal-vision goggle demonstrations. Also being planned is a back to school rally in the fall. The SAVE Advisor for Provine High School is Principal, Mrs. Leketia Marshall-Thomas.

The SAVE Chapter at Forest Hill High School will coordinate violence prevention activities with the Safe Schools/Healthy Students and Readiness and Emergency Management initiatives. An X the TXT event will take place in the spring, with the assistance the Steven James Allstate Agency. Other community outreach activities will consist of peer-to-peer promotions designed to encourage students to share safe driving strategies. The SAVE Advisor for Forest Hill High School is Mr. Anderson.

The SAVE Chapter at Callaway High School will participate in National Youth Violence Prevention Week with a focus on road rage, a Mississippi Department of Transportation-assisted rollover crash simulator and by announcing seatbelt-use statistics at halftime during sporting events. Also being planned is a Ghost Out event, posters promoting seatbelt use, and guest speakers during May. The SAVE Advisor for Callaway High School is Becky Cornelius.

With support from Allstate agents and employee volunteers, SAVE chapters will be able to provide leadership in their schools and communities to ensure that all students will be encouraged and empowered with healthy life skills while engaging in educational activities and opportunities to promote teen safe driving and youth safety.

SAVE is a peer-to-peer organization that focuses on the power of positive peer influences. According to a recent Allstate Foundation survey, *Shifting Teen Attitudes: The State of Teen Driving 2009*, peers are a major influence on teens – both positive and negative. Some of the concerning statistics that SAVE chapters will address include:

- Eighty-two percent of teens reported using cell phones while driving.
- Nearly half (48 percent) of girls admit they are likely to speed more than 10 mph over the limit, versus 36 percent of boys.
- Seventy-seven percent of teens admit they have felt unsafe with another teen's driving.

“This generous grant from The Allstate Foundation will assist students in finding real solutions to the issues of teen safe driving that they face each day,” stated SAVE’s executive director, Carleen Wray.

“By empowering teens to become smart driving activists in their schools and communities, we hope to reverse the staggering statistics,” said Jan Epstein, Corporate Relations Manager of The Allstate Foundation “Through The Allstate Foundation, we seek to develop innovative, teen-focused approaches to raise awareness of the issue and, ultimately, to help save lives and reduce injuries.”

#### **About The Allstate Foundation**

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The Allstate Corporation (NYSE: ALL). Through partnerships with nonprofit organizations across the country, The Allstate Foundation brings the relationships, reputation and resources of Allstate to support innovative and lasting solutions that enhance people’s well-being and prosperity. With a focus on teen safe driving and building financial independence for domestic violence survivors, The Allstate Foundation also promotes safe and vital communities; tolerance, inclusion, and diversity; and economic empowerment. For more information, visit [www.allstatefoundation.org](http://www.allstatefoundation.org).

#### **About the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere:**

SAVE started at West Charlotte High School in Charlotte, N.C. in 1989 following the tragic death of a student who was trying to break up a fight at an off-campus party. Students met first to console each other, then as an organization to promote youth safety and to work together to prevent future incidents from occurring. SAVE provides education about the effects and consequences of violence and helps provide safe activities for students, parents and communities. For more information on SAVE or starting a SAVE chapter, visit [www.nationalsave.org](http://www.nationalsave.org), or contact SAVE at (866) 343-SAVE to receive free start-up materials and guidance.

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