



# in the halls

What was your favorite part of Christmas this year?

"Spending time with my family and putting the Christmas tree up and taking it down."



- **Olivia Sinclair**, fourth grade Woodlawn Preparatory School

"I got a video camera as a present."



- **Ethan Bullock**, third grade Woodlawn Preparatory School

"I got a slingshot for Christmas. I like to practice with it."



- **Lincoln Quinn**, 6 years old Woodlawn Preparatory School

"I got a bicycle for Christmas. It's black and it has three wheels."



- **GiaVanni Walker**, 3 years old Woodlawn Preparatory School

"I got to see Santa Claus and I went to New York to see my grandmother."



- **Brooklyn Agoglia**, 4 years old Woodlawn Preparatory School

## CHS SAVE Chapter receives grant

Special to  
The Columbian-Progress

The Columbia High School chapter of Students Against Violence Everywhere is one of 15 SAVE Chapters across Mississippi to receive a grant from The Allstate Foundation to support statewide teen safe driving initiatives.

SAVE, which is committed to preventing violence and advocating for student safety in schools and communities across the country, joined forces with The Allstate Foundation in 2005. The foundation aims to help the nonprofit further its mission: to engage, to empower, to encourage and to educate students.

As part of the Allstate Foundation grant, each of the 15 chapters will receive free SAVE affiliation and mini grant funds, educational materials, training for school and community activities, ongoing support and technical assistance for SAVE's youth safety efforts and opportunities to partner with local Allstate agents. Through these efforts, hundreds of students will be educated and directly engaged in SAVE chapter activities, while thousands will hear teen safe driving messages and be involved in activities led by their peers.

The participating Mississippi chapters' primary focus will be teen safe driving. Recognizing that the leading cause of death in teenagers is car crashes, Mississippi chapters teaming with Allstate hope to change that statistic by providing

students the knowledge to make informed, safe and smart decisions on the road. SAVE student members at participating chapters will take the lead planning and executing teen safe driving campaigns aimed

to help youth understand the dangers of distracted driving, as well as activities surrounding conflict management, bullying and violence prevention and peer mentoring to younger students. Chapter initiatives will also promote various national observances and events throughout the year, including America's Safe Schools Week in October, the National SAVE Youth Summit in March, National Youth Violence Prevention Week in April and National Teen Safe Driving Month in May.

In addition to Columbia High School — which is sponsored by CHS teacher Toni Floyd — SAVE and The Allstate Foundation have already awarded the grant to these Mississippi school chapters: Biloxi High School, Callaway High School in Jackson, Clarksdale High School, D'Iberville High School in Biloxi, Provine High School in Jackson, South Pike High School in Magnolia, St. Patrick Catholic High School in Biloxi, Tupelo Middle School in Columbus, Vicksburg High School, Hancock County High School in Diamondhead, Hattiesburg High School,



Ocean Springs High School and Port Gibson Middle and High schools.

Allstate Agent Steven James of James Insurance Agency said the efforts of SAVE are important.

"With nearly 8,000 people killed in crashes involving drivers ages 16 to 20 each year, encouraging and empowering teens to promote safe driving among their peers has never been more important," he said. "We are excited to be teaming up with SAVE to help make an impact in educating students on safe driving and arm them with tools to be better prepared behind the wheel."

Carleen Wray, executive director of SAVE, said the funds provided by the Allstate Foundation make the program successful.

"These mini-grants allow SAVE chapters to implement a variety of campaigns and empower youth with critical life skills including informed decision making, communication, leadership, positive peer pressure and public speaking," she said. "We can't thank The Allstate Foundation enough. We're glad to team up with a foundation that shares the same desires as our organization

— to promote meaningful student involvement, education and service opportunities in hopes to increase the safety of our youth."

Since its inception in 1989, SAVE has grown from one school group to more than

2,100 chapters located in seven countries and 48 states. The organization mentors and provides resources, confidence and support to empower student leadership to help prevent school shootings, eliminate bullying and make their schools and communities safer for everyone. For more information on SAVE, visit [www.nationalsave.org](http://www.nationalsave.org).

SAVE started at West Charlotte High School in Charlotte, N.C., in 1989 after the 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 startup materials and guidance.

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The

Allstate Corporation. 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 building

financial independence for domestic violence survivors, empowering youth and celebrating the charitable community involvement of Allstate agency owners and employees, The Allstate Foundation works to bring out the good in people's lives. For more information, visit [www.AllstateFoundation.org](http://www.AllstateFoundation.org). ■

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