

SOUTH STRAND NEWS

Georgetown community chapter nationally recognized



ProvidedOptimism Preventive Services participants receive an award at the National Youth SAVE Summit. Pictured, from left, back row, Xavier Thompson, Miquel Holmes, Melquan Deas, Atoura Mont, Trevon Deas, Tylin Britton, Dyneice Collins, William Garrett, Denise Chatman, Desmond Collington and Amy Merritt; second row, Maya Morris and Soraya Chatman; and, first row, Mikalya Wright and Jordan German.

The Georgetown chapter of the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere has been named Chapter of the Year.

The association, which is known by the acronym SAVE, recently recognized standout individuals for their efforts and leadership in preventing violence in schools and communities nationwide. As part of the organization's annual Summit, SAVE honored two Students of the Year and one of each of the following: Adviser of the Year, Chapter of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. Award winners were nominated by community members from across the country.

The Chapter of the Year award went to the community-based SAVE chapter Optimism Preventive Services from Georgetown. The chapter overcame many obstacles this past year, including being flooded out of its meeting location.

Nonetheless, the group of 16 students remained active in their community. Projects include hosting a communitywide anti-bullying rally, organizing a clothing and personal items drive for the Family Justice Women's Shelter, hosting its annual crime prevention program, conducting a teen dating violence workshop for area youth, and promoting kindness and positive choices to kids at elementary schools, day cares and the local library.

The winners were announced at the National SAVE Youth Summit, which was held March 12 in Raleigh, North Carolina. More than 300 people attended, including SAVE participants, students, teachers, law enforcement, dropout prevention coordinators, social workers, counselors and parents from around the country. Through motivating workshops, peer-to-peer presentations and national speakers, the Summit showcased successful practices in preventing violence and trained participants in ways to make their schools and communities safer.