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National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere Names Local Student to 2012-2013 Youth Advisory Board *Alexis VanKoughnett, Junior at Cuthbertson High School, Named to National Advisory Board*

WAXHAW, NC. (August 23, 2012) — Carleen Wray, executive director of the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), has announced that Alexis VanKoughnett, a junior at Cuthbertson High School, has been selected as one of six high school students from across the country to serve on the 2012-2013 National SAVE Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Members of the board met in Raleigh, NC last week to participate in a National Youth Leadership Institute where they were trained as presenters and spokespersons for the national organization. At the Institute, VanKoughnett was elected by her peers to serve as Public Relations Officer.

"I joined SAVE to expand the awareness of SAVE throughout my community", stated Miss VanKoughnett. "It's such a great club because it helps bring awareness to bullying and violence both of which are common in our schools today. Every school should have a zero tolerance for bullying. So many students suffer in silence as a result of bullying and SAVE can help bring awareness and an end to the cycle." The group will meet throughout the year to discuss youth violence issues and develop action plans for SAVE chapters across the nation.

In addition to SAVE, VanKoughnett's plan is to attend college following her high school graduation; her dream school is University of North Carolina Wilmington. Where she would like to pursue a degree in Psychology and continue with theatre throughout college. Ultimately, her goal is to pursue a career in counseling.

Members of the YAB developed their leadership skills through participation in training sessions, discussions of best practices for school violence prevention and the practice of educational activities for sharing with other SAVE students. They created goals for the year as well as a proactive action plan to combat violence through the implementation of the three essential elements of SAVE: crime prevention, conflict management and service projects.

SAVE is a student-run, student-initiated public nonprofit violence prevention organization with over 2,000 chapters in 48 states and more than 200,000 members in elementary, middle, high schools, colleges and communities nationwide.

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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 violence prevention 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, or contact SAVE at (866) 343-SAVE to receive free start-up materials and guidance.

<http://www.nationalsave.org/main/YAB12-13.php>

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