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Youth Violence Prevention Organizations Sandy Hook Promise and SAVE Join Forces to Increase Efforts

Two Leading National Nonprofits Collaborate to Train and Empower Youth in
Violence Prevention Strategies Across the United States

Newtown, CT – Leading gun violence prevention organization Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) is pleased to announce it will be combining efforts with youth violence prevention group National Association of S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere), Inc. (SAVE) to collectively expand their reach and sustain their work on educating and empowering young people to help prevent violence BEFORE it happens.

“Sandy Hook Promise is thrilled to be joining forces with SAVE in our violence prevention efforts. In order to sustain our *Know The Signs* violence prevention programs, we have been embedding our programs into existing student clubs, or creating new clubs to continue their activities. SAVE’s established national network of 2,200 student chapters in 48 states helps us with that work, and to meet our shared goals of preventing school shootings, reduce bullying, and making our communities more inclusive and safe for everyone,” said Nicole Hockley, Managing Director of Sandy Hook Promise, and mother of 6-year old Dylan who was killed in the Sandy Hook School tragedy.

In less than three years, Sandy Hook Promise has trained 2 million youth and adults across the country with their free violence prevention programs for educators, students and youth organizations. Through their innovative initiatives, Sandy Hook Promise has helped avert multiple school shootings, suicides and threats and acts of self-harm violence, as well as reduced the incidences of bullying nationally.

SAVE chapters around the country are led by students for students, giving members the opportunity to lead the planning and execution of youth safety campaigns for their peers. Through the collaboration with SHP, SAVE will be able to sustain efforts to encourage and empower students to keep their schools and communities safe. The organization involves more than 240,000 students in 2,200 chapters across elementary, middle and high schools, as well as colleges and community organizations in the U.S. The organization mentors and provides resources, confidence and support to empower student leadership to help make schools and communities safe.



“SAVE is a proud supporter of Sandy Hook Promise and its mission, with several of our chapters participating in their *Know The Signs* violence prevention programs, including **Say Something** and **Start With Hello**. We are so thankful to combine our efforts with their organization to sustain our programs together,” said Carleen Wray, SAVE’s Executive Director.

Like SHP, SAVE was started after tragic gun violence – one that took the life of a high school student. Students initially met to console each other, and later formed the SAVE organization to promote youth safety and prevent future violent incidents from occurring. By coming together, SHP and SAVE hope to further educate and empower youth to lead and sustain violence prevention strategies and safety efforts both within their local schools and nationwide.

About Sandy Hook Promise

Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) is a national, nonprofit organization based in Newtown, Connecticut. We are led by several family members whose loved ones were killed in the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012 that claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and 6 educators. SHP is focused on preventing gun violence (and other forms of violence and victimization) BEFORE it happens by educating and mobilizing youth and adults on mental health and wellness programs that identify, intervene and help at-risk individuals. SHP is a moderate, above-the-politics organization that supports sensible non-policy and policy solutions that protect children and prevent gun violence. Our intent is to honor all victims of gun violence by turning our tragedy into a moment of transformation. For more information, visit www.sandyhookpromise.org or call 203-304-9780.

About the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere:

SAVE started at West Charlotte High School in Charlotte, North Carolina 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.