Safe Schools Coalition Annual Report 2008

We celebrated the Coalition's **20th anniversary** in 2008 with a reunion to honor our amazing volunteers. We were fortunate to host two **Justserve Americorps members**, Adrienne Woody and Ethan Blustein, from Solid Ground, and **intern**, Kyle Rapinan, then a senior at Shorecrest High School. We **contracted** with three wonderful individuals, Kristina Armenakis, Helen Stillman and Gabi Clayton. We were honored as **Grand Marshals** of the 2008 Seattle Pride Parade; we also had our **yellow school bus** packed with jubilant families and volunteers.

We mourned the passing this year of a dear friend and colleague, a founder and staunch supporter of the Coalition, Washington Education Association General Counsel, **Jerry Painter**.

Accomplishments & Services

- Our **Web Site** added music, video and an entire youth section, including new pages on cyber-bullying and social networking. The site, www.safeschoolscoalition.org, got 2.4 million hits from 318,118 educators, students, family members and allies in 176 countries, on every continent except Antarctica. We also launched MySpace, Facebook and LinkedIn pages in 2008.
- Our **List Serve** added a new team of volunteer staff people and sent a total of 355 messages to 905 subscribers in 11 countries, 44 U.S. states plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico, 5 Canadian provinces and 27 counties in Washington State. We were a lifeline to people in rural and conservative places, a system for researchers and reporters to find interviewees, and a vehicle to enhance communication among education practitioners, academics, students and families, and the community.
- Our dispatchers received calls from 108 individuals in 2008. They referred 30 of those students and families to **Intervention Specialists** for crisis counseling, advocacy, and referral, including 26 brief and 4 in-depth interventions. Intervention Specialists participated in a two-day retreat. We saw a surge of 9 new volunteers. And we surveyed King County school nurses to assess districts' utilization of our posters informing students and staff that there's a safe place to call about anti-LGBTQ violence.
- Our **Panelists, Speakers and Trainers** (in partnership with American Friends Service Committee) trained 983 adults and 1,352 youth in 2008. Fourteen speakers and trainers, 32 youth panelists and 10 panel facilitators did a combined total of 77 workshops, for conferences and in public and private schools (K-12 and university) in Washington State and in Connecticut, Louisiana and Oklahoma.
- We launched four radio **Public Service Announcements**, declaring *"You are perfect just the way you are!"* Listen: http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-PSAs.html
- We hosted a Northwest premiere of the remarkable documentary, ***It's STILL Elementary: The Movie and the Movement*** with director Debra Chasnoff and a panel of teachers and all-grown-up students. Photos: http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/ItsStillElementary-SeattleEvent.html. We dedicated the showing to Lawrence King, the middle schooler gunned down this year by a classmate, allegedly for asking him to be his Valentine, and we supported a second showing for the University of Washington, School of Social Work.
- We hosted a lecture by **Dr. Caitlin Ryan**, Executive Director of the Family Acceptance Project at the Cesar Chavez Institute at San Francisco State University, whose work helps families support and protect their lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and gender variant children.
- We held a successful all-ages benefit comedy night, ***Laugh at Loud,*** at the Comedy Underground, with support from the volunteer comedians of Nonprofit Comedy.
- We served as Community Co-presenters, along with Families United Against Hate and the Matthew Shepard Foundation, for a Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival showing of D. Lee Inosanto's remarkable film ***The Sensei,*** a full-length feature film that will change hearts and minds.
- We began offering to analyze the data and synthesize it into a school-specific report, for any high school GSA's wanting to conduct **GSA Network's Climate Survey** in their school.
- We provided two all-day continuing education workshops, on **racism and white privilege** and on **working with trans youth**, featuring nationally respected trainers Truc Nguyen and Carla Odiega, respectively, for Safe Schools Coalition volunteers and member organizations.

- We were integrally involved in the launching of a **National Safe Schools Roundtable website** and a searchable database for groups doing LGBTQ safe schools work and for funders.
- Our **technical assistance** contributed to retaining bullying questions on Washington State's biannual Healthy Youth Survey, enhancing a teachers' guide on masculinity to be published soon by Scenarios USA, and strengthening laws in several states and policies in a number of districts.
- Our newly formed **Law & Policy Work Group** spent much of 2008 beginning to forge a long-term legislative agenda.

Individual and Family Donors, 2008

Roberta Adams
Catherine Ahl
Anonymous
Glenn Bafia
Michelle Bagshaw
L. Ann Baker
Tom & Linda Baker
Annabell Bergquist
Zoe Abigail Bermet
Danica Bornstein
Marsha Botzer
Jodie Butler
Craig Gordon Campbell
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Gabi & Alec Clayton
Peter Donahue
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Nathan Thomas
Norm Walker
Kim Westheimer
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Volunteers, Active Organizational Liaisons, Contractors

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Chris Beahler
Ania Beszterda-Alyson
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Janet Bogle
Tara Borelli
Tyler Bosma
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Daniel Moore
Matt Munson
Heather Murphy
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Carla Odiaga
Penny Palmer
Jason Plourde
Ann Priebe
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Heidi Rettke-Bischoff
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Piper Sangston
Steve Schalchlin
Billie Schulz
Ryan Schwartz
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Helen Stillman
Frieda Takamura
Avry Todd
Norm Walker
Brandon Walter
Robyn Walters
Adrienne Woody

Member Organizations 2007-2008

Ally Action (CA)
American Friends Service Committee *
*Anti-Defamation League **
BEND-IT Queer Youth Arts and Music Festival
Camp Ten Trees
Charles Wright Academy (Tacoma, WA)
*Comprehensive Health Education Foundation **
*Diversity Productions **
East Hartford High School (CT)
Equality New Mexico
Families United Against Hate *
Gay & Gender Research
*Gay Straight Alliance Network **
*Gender Public Advocacy Coalition **
*Gender Spectrum **
GLOBE (spons. by PFLAG Everett-Snohomish Co.)
GLSEN – Washington State
Greater Seattle Business Association
GroundSpark's Respect for All Project *
If You Don't They Will
Ingersoll Gender Center
King Co. Sexual Assault Resource Center
Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship / Kitsap Safe Schools Network
Lake Washington Education Association
Lambert House
Lifelong AIDS Alliance
Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Center
North Carolina Healthy Schools Initiative
OASIS Youth Center/Pierce Co. AIDS Foundation
Odyssey Youth Center
Olympia Community School
One-In-Teen Youth Services (Nashville, TN)
Oregon Safe Schools and Community Coalition
OSPI (The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State)
Passages Northwest
Peninsula Pride Alliance
*PFLAG National * – and 3 local chapters:* ***Bellevue****,* ***Olympia****, and Seattle*
Planned Parenthood of the Great NW
Power of Hope
Pride Foundation
Public Health – Seattle & King County
Puget Sound Community School
Rainbow Beach at the Center Project (SC)
Ravenna United Methodist Church
Respect Sacramento (CA)
Safe Schools Coalition – Idaho Chapter
Safe Schools of Wyoming
St. Vrain Valley School District (CO)
*Scouting for All **
Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities
Seattle Office for Civil Rights
Seattle Public Schools
Shorecrest High School Gay Straight Alliance
*Teaching Tolerance / Southern Poverty Law Center**
Teen Talking Circles
Turning Institute
University of Puget Sound
University of Washington – Q Center
Vista Youth Center (Kennewick, WA)
Washington Association of School Social Workers
Washington Education Association
Washington Gender Alliance
WSU's Gender Identity / Expression & Sexual Orientation Resource Center
Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation
YouthAware Educational Theatre
***Youth Guardian Services** **
Youth Suicide Prevention Program

* National and international member organizations are asterisked.
** Those that have donated more than the equivalent of dues, in some cases much more, are **bolded**. Web sponsors were Youth Guardian Services, Greater Seattle Business Association and American Friends Service Committee.

Partner Organizations 2007-2008*

ACLU – Washington
Blue Argo
Bryson Institute at the Attic Youth Center, Philadelphia, PA
Casey Family Programs
Center for Health Training /James Bowman Associates
Committee for Children
Edmonds Education Association
Equal Rights Washington
First Student, Inc.
Saltwater Church: A Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Des Moines, WA
Foundation for Early Learning
Garfield High School Gay-Straight Alliance
K & L Gates, LLP
King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
Non-Profit Comedy
Northwest Women's Law Center
Planned Parenthood Public Policy Network of Washington
Pride Foundation
Raynier Institute & Foundation
Solid Ground
Three Dollar Bill Cinema
Washington Council of School Attorneys
Washington Mutual Matching Gift Program

***** These organizations have made crucial in-kind contributions or (**bolded**) much appreciated financial gifts. Some provide staff to serve on SSC committees, but they are not officially members of the Coalition at this time.