



ULSTER COUNTY is a **No Name-Calling COUNTY!**

January 2011

Two years ago, GLSEN Hudson Valley and the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center convened a **Safe Schools Roundtable**, bringing community and school district leaders together to address bullying and safety in our schools. We recognized that ownership of these issues must be a community concern, and that effective solutions must come from the community at large.

Verbal bullying is the most frequent form of bullying. The old adage is not true: Words DO hurt. The spate of recent teen suicides is a tragic reminder that we must address bullying in its many forms -- **no child is immune**. The stresses and fears of bullying interfere with students' engagement in the classroom, and create a climate of fear and disrespect in schools.

With your help, we want to reverse this dangerous trend. We have asked the local counties, municipalities, and school districts to declare the week of **January 31-February 4 as No Name-Calling Week**. We invite your participation.

Designed by GLSEN, **No Name-Calling Week** is an annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds. Our committee can provide you with display posters, and a calendar of community events, including a Creative Expressions contest, with works displayed in different venues throughout the tri-county area. We also encourage you to plan your own event. We have enclosed information with unique ideas for different age groups, information on the Creative Expressions contest, and the culminating event, to get you started.

Please complete and return the enclosed Participation Form, and let us know how your organization will assure the success of this important initiative. We have already asked our county leaders to add their support to this week with official proclamations.

Please help us send a strong message: **Call me by only one name – my name.**

Sincerely,

The No Name Calling Week Planning Committee

Ellen Pendegar, CEO, The Mental Health Association in Ulster County

Maureen Bowers, Trustee, Board of Education, Kingston City Schools Consolidated

Please Note: GLSEN's national No Name-Calling Week will run from January 24-28, 2011. Due to conflict with Regents Exam schedules, countywide programs in the Hudson Valley will run from January 31-February 4, 2011.