

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 21, 2011

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Youth leads Youth on a BASTA Experience

Hagåtña, Guam – Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam (YFYLG) will be conducting a day-long conference for students – middle school through high school – on Tuesday, October 25, 2011. The overarching theme of the conference is Bullying Prevention – **BASTA: Bullying Affects Students, Teachers, and All.**

Day 1 of the BASTA Conference offers to its student-audience fun and exciting activities and learning-enriched opportunities that tackle serious issues such as bullying, suicide prevention, anger and stress management, underage drinking, and individuality. Members of YFYLG will be presenting before their peers these workshop sessions that they believe are important to the youth on Guam.

Bobbie Benavente, Bullying Prevention Advisory Group (BPAG) member and DMHSA Prevention and Training Branch supervisor, emphasizes on youth training and leadership as key to prevention successes: “During the first day of the BASTA Conference, students will have an opportunity to witness and support youth leadership in action. BASTA is a win-win event for Guam’s youth leaders, conference participants and adult leaders because it demonstrates the power youth have to influence other youths in positive ways.”

One of the key presenters is Dr. Iris PrettyPaint, an educator, researcher, and a leading authority on cultural resilience and indigenous evaluation. Her presentations focus on the roles of culture and youth education on preventing the harms of bullying. Most workshops offered in Day 1 of the conference will be youth-led. An example is **Basta Ma’asse** (*translated as Bullying Prevention*) which teaches participants how to recognize, handle and prevent bullying incidents in an everyday school setting.

Gayle Osborn, BPAG member and Lead Adviser for YFYLG, encourages education for both parents and students on bullying prevention: “We need to mobilize both groups together to make the changes that our island needs for a safer environment. The workshops that our youth leaders are conducting in this conference teach values and confidence to the youth, which will eventually help stir them away from bullying and other harmful activities.”

Days 2 and 3 of the BASTA conference are targeted towards the adults – educators and school administrators. A special Parent Session will be held on Day 2, October 26th, from 6PM – 8PM. Visiting presenters are Terry L. Dozier, a retired professional athlete and currently a life coach and speaker, Rick Phillips, MS Ed, Executive Director and founder of *Community Matters*, and Charles P.E. Lietch, Founding Principal of Patterson Buchanan Fobes Leitch & Kalzer, Inc., P.S.

For more information, contact the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program of the Judiciary of Guam at 671-475-3427 or DMHSA Prevention and Training Branch (PEACE Office) at 671-477-9079 – 83.

BASTA Bullying Prevention Conference is a collaboration of the Judiciary of Guam and Department of Education. The conference will be held on October 25 – 27, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Guam, from 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM. For the benefit of the media, a press conference will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 10AM at the aforementioned venue. For more information, contact Joleen Respicio at 475-3427. This conference is 100% federally funded by the Title V-A Consolidated Grant CFDA #84-403.

Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam is a non-profit organization consisting of over 60 middle/high school teens representing both public and private schools on Guam. Here, youth empower their peers with knowledge and skills to promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles by participating in community educational outreach, prevention training, leadership/skill development, community collaboration and other positive alternatives promoting healthier lifestyles. YFYLG is a partner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Training Branch.

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