

**November
2019**

KIDS2KIDS

Students Uniting to Create Positive Change

**Coalition for Healthy and
Safe Communities**
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18th Annual Taking Flight to Change Summit a Huge Success!!

We would like to send a BIG thank you to everyone who participated in our 18th Annual Taking Flight to Change Summit on October 25th. We are thankful and send lots of appreciation to Sparta High School for hosting the Summit! A special thank you to Visions Federal Credit Union for being a key sponsor of the event.

The energy, enthusiasm and excitement at the event was incredible. The summit's presentations and this year's theme— **Kindness Matters. Always and In All Ways**— let everyone know that they can change the climate of their school simply by being kind. The summit also helped attendees gain the confidence to say something when they see bullying, and realize that standing



by as bullying happens is as bad as the bullying itself.

We had over 80 high school leaders who were phenomenal in their assistance and energy.

Middle school students and advisors were greeted the morning of the event with amazing excitement. Our keynote speaker Kyle Scheele as well as musician Jared Campbell knew exactly how to inspire students to make a change. Throughout

the day we saw student presentations from Pope John High School, Sussex County Charter School, Sparta Middle School, Sussex Middle School, Franklin Elementary and Vernon High School.

It is clear that attendees received the message and are motivated to make a difference. To share your activities with us send a description and pictures to jenn@centerforprevention.org.



Pay It Forward Day Official in New Jersey

Mateo Hollain is a 16-year-old that is just trying to make the world a better place, one small act of kindness at a time. Hollain, a junior at Hunterdon Central High School, worked to have a resolution passed by state Legislature officially making April 28th, Pay It Forward Day in New Jersey every year.

"I think it can make a huge difference just having one day where people are focused on kindness can change someone's life," Mateo said.

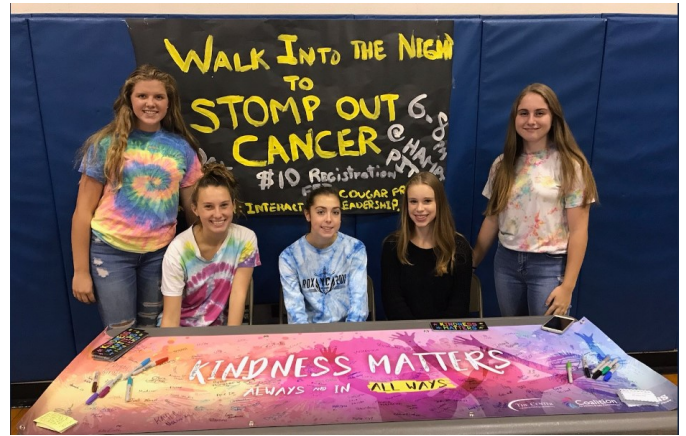
"I came across a few other states, that actually have Pay It Forward day or other days meant for doing positive things and then I researched it in New Jersey. New Jersey had nothing meant for positive acts of kindness, so I thought it would be a perfect way to kind of make it a bigger thing."

For the next two years, Hollain spent time communicating with various members of the state legislature advocating for Pay It Forward Day to be recognized on the calendar to make his mission more credible. The teen did face moments of doubt along the way, wondering if the day would ever get approved. The resolution was initially passed in 2017, but was lost before it could be officially enacted, so Hollain had to go through the entire process again and on April 25th, 2019 Pay It Forward Day was officially recognized by the New Jersey state legislature.



AWESOME Week of Respect and Red Ribbon Week Updates from Sussex County Schools!

Kittatinny Regional - Students from the Cougar Pride Club promoted Week of Respect by encouraging students from the junior high to sign the kindness banner. Students from the high school participated in Crossage days where they went and provided education to younger students within their sending district about how to be an upstander.



Hopatcong High School— For Week of Respect, high school students were asked to take a pledge to treat others with respect regardless of their differences to be an upstander not a bystander and to say no to cyberbullying. If they agreed they were asked to sign their name on a cut out letter which will be displayed on the cafeteria wall.



Valley Road School— Throughout the month of October students and staff at Valley Road School participated in Spirit Days including Twinsie Wednesday during School Violence/Awareness Week. Students and staff also assisted to decorate the school by creating various bulletin boards throughout the building, all bulletin boards were created with kindness themes.

Franklin Elementary School— Students and staff at Franklin Elementary School participated in Spirit Days for Week of Respect and Red Ribbon Week including: *Everyone Counts Day, HERO (Help Encourage Respect Others) Day, Sock It To Drugs and Team-up Against Drugs Day*. Thanks to the Franklin PTO students and parents were able to welcome the Mallory's Army presentation to their school.

