

From: Card, Rachel
To: Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 10/15/2013 3:35:17 PM
Subject: Bullying - Cherokee County

KV – 7 emails total (two from the same person). I have not reached out to these constituents yet. Please let me know if you need additional information. Rachel

1. October 10, 2013

Rachel,

Your email address was listed in a post on Gaffney Ledger Readers Facebook wall as a contact for Nikki Haley's anti-bullying campaign. In Gaffney on October 8th there was an attack on a child at the school which amounted to him being attacked by one child and many others taunting him. Another child took her life on the night of October 9th in Blacksburg after being the victim of bullying. I also know of a child that suffers from disabilities that was bullied at Ewing Middle School for a few years & nothing was done.

Too often we hear "kids will be kids" but this is not true. Kids will do what they are allowed and taught to do.

Its time to start giving every situation full attention & stop bullying. This behavior starts at home and if the parents are not willing to teach their child better or accept help in changing their child, then they need to be held accountable.

There are too many children suffering by these kids that have not been taught love and compassion. There is too much hate in the world and someone needs to stand up for those who don't have a support system at home, those parents who have fought the system to be told its "kids being kids", for the parents and children who have done all they can and still endure, for the parents whose children have taken their life as a way to end bullying, and for every child that has passed due to suicide because they saw no end to bullying.

Its time for us as a community to say enough is enough! Please provide any information as to how we in Cherokee County can get with our school personnel and help stop bullying.

Thank you for any feedback!

Kelly Wyatt
kellywyatt76@aol.com

2. October 10, 2013

Your email address was listed in a post on Gaffney Ledger Readers Facebook wall as a contact for Nikki Haley's anti-bullying campaign. In Gaffney on October 8th there was an attack on a child at the school which amounted to him being attacked by one child and many others taunting him. Another child took her life on the night of October 9th in Blacksburg after being the victim of bullying. I also know of a child that suffers from disabilities that was bullied at Ewing Middle School for a few years & nothing was done. Too often we hear "kids will be kids" but this is not true. Kids will do what they are allowed and taught to do. Its time to start giving every situation full attention & stop bullying. This behavior starts at home and if the parents are not willing to teach their child better or accept help in changing their child, then they need to be held accountable. There are too many children suffering by these kids that have not been taught love and compassion. There is too much hate in the world and someone needs to stand up for those who don't have a support system at home, those parents who have fought the system to be told its "kids being kids", for the parents and children who have done all they can and still endure, for the parents whose children have taken their life as a way to end bullying, and for every child that has passed due to suicide because they saw no end to bullying. Its time for us as a community to say enough is enough! Please provide any information as to how we in Cherokee County can get with our school personnel and help stop bullying.

Thank you for any feedback

Lynn Martin

Lynnm864@aol.com

3. October 10, 2013

Rachel,

I wanted to write you to let you know about a few incidents in Cherokee County. Last year a Blacksburg, SC student took his own life due to bullying. Just yesterday another Blacksburg, SC student took her life because of bullying. On Tuesday afternoon at Gaffney High School a bullying incident occurred as well. The bullying at GHS was recorded and uploaded to Facebook and it showed a girl taunting, hitting, spitting and smacking a smaller boy while other students yelled and were rooting her on. The video and incident at GHS made the local news (WSPA News channel 7, Fox Carolina) if you would like to check it out. There seems to be a real problem with bullying in the Cherokee County school system. I think our community would benefit greatly by having someone come and talk to our students.

Thanks so much!

April Peeler

april1982peeler@yahoo.com

4. October 10, 2013

Ms. Card:

As a newspaper reporter/editor for the past 45 years in SC, I can truthfully say I feel that bullying has gotten considerably worse in recent years - at least here in Cherokee County. You can check our Facebook site, The Cherokee Chronicle, this morning and get some details about a massive gang bullying and fight that took place at Gaffney High yesterday. A 14-year-old (girl) has been charged by police, but after viewing the video yesterday, many more should be disciplined in some way. Most of the large crowd was encouraging a large girl to continue beating on a small boy.

In a separate incident in nearby Blacksburg (also in Cherokee County), a 14-year-old girl took her own life last night, reportedly because she was being bullied.

Perhaps you could schedule a visit here to help in some way. We all must address this very serious problem. Those of us here at The Cherokee Chronicle stand ready to assist in any way we can.

Thank you for your time,

Tommy E. Martin

Editor/Publisher

The Cherokee Chronicle

Gaffney, SC

cherokeechronicle@yahoo.com

5. October 10, 2013

Hi, I am a parent of a child that attends Blacksburg High School (Cherokee County) and we have been informed of a young girl that took her own life due to being bullied and earlier this year (last school year) a young boy also took his own life from this same school district for the same reasons! This is such a small school, my son just started there last year, I chose this school because of its size and thought it would be more "Family like" and less drama, however, this is not the case. I myself am starting to get concerned for my own child, he has started failing, losing interest, doesn't speak of many friends, and now he's not wanting to go to school. I don't know how to approach this with the school, I ask my son if he's being picked on but as I

expected he said "no" but my instincts and knowing the signs of bullying are saying different. Please intervene in some way with this school. Two young children from such a small school taking their own lives because of bullying is too much!

Thank you!

Dixie J. Bolin

dixiejbolin@gmail.com

6. October, 10, 2013

Hi, Rachel. I sent an email earlier about problems with bullying in Cherokee County. It is my understanding that there is a school board meeting on, Monday, October 14 at 7pm. Is there any way that someone could attend this meeting? I know a lot of parents are planning to attend & I think this would be a great opportunity for someone from your office to provide information to those in attendance. It may help set up a group to help deal with this.

Once again thank you for any help!

Kelly Wyatt

Kellywyatt76@aol.com

7. October 10, 2013

Please visit the schools in my county for Anti Bullying.

Blacksburg High School, Blacksburg Middle School and Granard Middle School, Ewing Middle School, Gaffney Middle School and Gaffney High School. These schools are all in Cherokee County and although my children are not that school age yet there is talk that there is a lot of problems with bullying. Thank you for any help you might be able to give.

Kristi Bell

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Rachel Card

Office of Governor Nikki R. Haley

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