

DBAB TESTIMONIALS

Kevin L. Johnson (Former Mayor; SC House Representative District No.64)

Mrs. Cantey-Davis, You and your staff are to be highly commended for all of the positive things that you are doing throughout so many communities, but especially for the outstanding work that you are doing in the area of bullying. In a very appropriate manner, through your stage productions, you are bringing much needed awareness to a problem that is becoming more and more prevalent in society. Your productions bring to light the negative consequences of bullying and how it impacts the lives of so many young people. Through your efforts many people have a better understanding of this issue and leave more determined to help alleviate the harm that is done through bullying. God Bless and keep up the good work.

Jack Wilson-Executive Director (South Arkansas Arts Center, Eldorado Arkansas)

Your company far exceeded my expectations in your professionalism and quality of performances. I have attached a section of a letter that I have sent to our Board of Directors and other sponsors of the event.

As we are all aware, bullying is an epidemic and one that Union County, Arkansas is not immune to. Just this last week, a school in Ohio made national headlines due to a student shooting where multiple students were injured or killed. The investigation is still ongoing in that case but I am willing to guess that the student that perpetrated the shooting was an above average student that was bullied. This is the situation in over half of the school shootings around the country. The thugs are turning our good students into killers! Where does one start to address this epidemic? ANYWHERE! And that is exactly what we did at the Municipal Auditorium on February 17th .

2,478 children and their teachers from 10 schools throughout the county attended the performances of "Don't Be A Bully! Speak Up! Speak Out!". A play performed by young actors that has a very positive message about not allowing bullying to continue without telling someone (teacher, parent, principle or resource officer) about it. Their message was also about accepting others despite their differences. This program was performed by professional actors equaling the age of most of their audience. In addition most of these young actors have been a victim or a perpetrator of bullying and all of them understand the need to get this message out to as many kids as possible. The age of the performers as well as their personal experience with bullying provided a comfortable atmosphere where the audience could relate to the stories that were being told.

As with any program we do, getting feedback is the only way to know if we are making the correct impact. In the situations where the audience comes from a multiple of sources I ask the school administrators for feedback from the individual schools. Bonnie Haynie with the Eldorado School District contacted the participating schools to ask them the following questions:

- 1. Did your students enjoy the performance?**
- 2. As an instructor, was the presentation “worth the time”?**
- 3. Was the lesson that was being illustrated understood by your students?**
- 4. What is your overall impression of the presentation?**
- 5. Comments.**

Their responses were:

- 1. All responses said that the audience enjoyed the performance (teachers and students).**
- 2. All responses stated that the presentation was “worth the time”.**
- 3. All responses said that the anti-bullying message was clear.**
- 4. Responses described the presentation as; professional, engaging and high energy**

5. The only concern expressed was that one principle was concerned that the message was to fight the bullies back with words instead of taking the problem to an adult. I hope that is not the message the children got.

With this kind of feedback and the energy I noticed on the day of the performances I would say that this program was a huge success. The important thing is that we are not sitting around allowing bullies to continue to make our schools a caustic atmosphere for some students. We are providing our children with the tools to handle these situations and help these bullies see that there is a better way. If we get to them early, we might make a difference.

I know that your message was well received by all that saw it, now we can only hope that it sticks.

Jack Wilson

Executive Director

South Arkansas Arts Center

110 E. 5th Street

El Dorado, AR 71730

Winnie Johnson, Ed. D. Principal (Dutchtown Elementary School)

WOW! Don't Be a Bully, Speak Up and Speak Out! is an energy-filled, meaningful and relevant production for students of all ages to experience the many faces of bullying. Through well-acted simulations, dance, and music, students will leave this production with real life skills to utilize immediately if they are being bullied or if they witness someone else being bullied. The program meets kids at their level and they can instantly relate to the characters and the familiar themes often found in schools. I encourage ALL administrators to consider booking Don't Be a Bully, Speak up and Speak Out! as soon as you can. It will definitely compliment the Anti-bullying initiatives that we all have in our schools.

Winnie Johnson, Ed. D. Principal

Dutchtown Elementary School

Hampton, GA

Barbara Jones (Parent)

Hi Kim,

The play was awesome, my daughter cried when the parents of the child that committed suicide spoke. I brought her and her best friend who have both been bullies in the past so that they can see what bullying does and how it hurts. They both told me that they also get bullied at school as well so it really hit home. It was a beautiful production and it was nice to see our church body there in full effect dressed up in their orange "Sold Out" t-shirts :-)

Barbara Jones- Parent

**Gloria Dingle
2nd Grade Teacher**

Kim,

I really enjoyed the performance. It was Awesome. It goes well with our Anti-bully program that we use. Thanks again for a wonderful show!!!!!!

Gloria Dingle
2nd Grade Teacher
Dutchtown Elementary-Henry County Schools

**Timeka L. Cline- Assistant Administrator
Copper Middle School**

Hello Kim,

I just wanted to say how grateful we are to you all for coming out and blessing us with your talent. The kids were absolutely amazing and their parents should be proud! I know the kids were a little rowdy, but know that the message was received. Students and staff are still talking about the play and the discussion teachers had with students the day after the play was enlightening. Great Job!!!