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Strike Out Bullying

Morning of strikes will spare teens from bullying

Aim for the pins to help reduce bullying for the next generation.

"Brunch and Bowl to Strike Out Bullying," benefiting National Voices for Equality, Education and Enlightenment, is set for July 16.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sawgrass Lanes, 8501 N. University Drive in Tamarac.

The national anti-bullying organization has impacted the lives of more than 25,000 youths.

The bowling event will fund more than 70 scholarships for students, ages 14 through 18, to attend NVEEE's annual "Peace Ambassador Leadership Summit."

"PALS" is hosted at Florida International University and is sponsored by the FIU Honors College. The 10-day program provides youths from across the country a unique personal growth experience where they emerge as leaders through compelling sessions and presentations that target proven bullying, self-harm and suicide prevention techniques. Participants engage in leadership, entrepreneurship and career-preparedness workshops hosted by local community leaders. Diversity and open communication are made paramount by ensuring the use of artistic expression through music, dance, poetry and spoken word.

"As a young dancer, I saw many girls who didn't fit the so-called 'right body type' quit because others made fun of them," said Jordynn Lurie, an NVEEE Peace Ambassador. "Those were my first memories of witnessing bullying. In middle school, it got worse. I decided I wanted to advocate for those would-be dancers and anyone else made to feel they didn't belong. Bullying often stops kids from reaching their potential, whether it's in dance, other arts, sports and even academics — and it has to be stopped."

NVEEE's Young Professionals Committee is chaired by Morgan Ben-David. Other members include founder Jowharah Sanders and founding board members Juliana Ruiz and Jessica Saiontz. At large members include Dayliset Rielo, Karen E. Lungarelli, Vanessa Vega, Sarkis Anac, Ahmad Zachary, Ana Buendia and Chloe Corrian.

For more information, email info@nveee.org, visit www.crowdrise.com/strikeoutbullying or call 954-866-5880.

PHOTOS BY KARA STARZYK



Chason Lang, left, Juliana Ruiz, Jowharah Sanders, Ana Buendia, Jessica Saiontz and Antonio Medina



Chloe Corrian, left, Ahmad Zachary, Vanessa Vega, Morgan Ben-David, Karen E. Lungarelli, Sarkis Anac, Jowharah Sanders and Dayliset Rielo **Submitted photo**



Jamiah Barber, left, Jordynn Lurie, Yakira Chu, Brooke Ortega and Hannah Ortega **Submitted photo**



Chason Lang, left, and Antonio Medina



Jowharah Sanders, left, and Ana Buendia



Juliana Perez, left, and Jessica Saiontz