

Bullying Is a Serious Issue

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By Denise Bethune

A couple of weeks ago, I attended a bullying conference sponsored by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, informative to say the least in confronting, finding solutions for what they now identify as a health issue in our schools, communities as a whole... bullying. Bullying is a serious issue starting from childhood into adulthood; those behaviors must be addressed immediately; the consequences are too fatal. When children bully, those behaviors begin somewhere, either they are witnessing this fact or wanting to be a part of something that show power over others, fitting in. As a result the person being bullied loses respect for self and for a world where resources are available in which to recover; identifying and implementing programs that work are critical components. Intimidation is scary and quite real; reassuring that speaking out is the right thing to do. Bullying is not only exchanged between boys, girls, and young adults, this behavior can also be quite visible through persons of authority who are not held accountable. Individuals are being bullied based on past behaviors that result in being institutionalized through one entity or another. Some are trying to rebuild their lives through positive interactions with families and community. If the bullying issue is not addressed from all levels, how can we teach our children accountability, acceptance when the persons in authority do just the opposite? We all have to work towards building a safer community through partnerships and that means everyone. "If a child lives with hostility, he learns To fight." "If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself."

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