Headquartered in Palm Beach County, Florida, Crystals is the largest sugar producer in North America. Thank you for underwriting all the costs of the Recognition Luncheon and for sending the Palm Beach County ambassadors to Washington, D.C. this summer.

The William H. Pitt Foundation was established in 1985 to benefit deserving youth primarily through education. Thank you for underwriting all the costs associated with publishing this book and for giving every middle school principal a “no strings attached” grant.

The law firm of Larmoyeux & Bone helps injured people get their lives back together. Thank you for underwriting the administrative costs of the “Do The Write Thing” program in Palm Beach County.

I walked over to the boy with the bloody nose... I help him up... as I looked into his eyes, I saw them start to change... what I was seeing was... not everyone's the same... And as I walked away, my step noticeably lighter, I believed then that I could do something.

-Chrisopher Wrights, Tradewinds Middle School

Bullies don’t see the wounds they make
Because those only show deep within
No one knows unless you say
I am tired of being scared
In my own skin
-Aniya Smit, BAK Middle School of the Arts

...my most valuable lesson from this experience has been how to take control of my own life. It has made me an independent thinker and a very strong person. I learned that nobody can control you, unless you give them that control.

-Christina Gambale, Palm Springs Middle School

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The Do the Write Thing Challenge provides middle school students with an opportunity to examine the impact of violence on their lives and communicate in writing what they can personally do to stop violence.

The program involves a classroom discussion and a “Challenge” to answer three questions in written form:

- How has youth violence affected my life?
- What are the causes of youth violence?
- What can I do to reduce youth violence?

The goal of the program is to reduce violence in homes, schools and neighborhoods by encouraging students to make a personal commitment to do something about this problem. Complete information about the program is available online at www.dtwt.org.

There are 38,519 students enrolled in 33 Palm Beach County public middle schools. Of that number, approximately 19,000 students submitted writings. Many more participated in classroom discussions. Those schools with approximately 50% of their students participating in the program were eligible to advance their “Top 10” best writings to the next level of judging. In addition, those “Top 10” students were published in this book. Since its inception, it is estimated that over a million students have participated in the Challenge. Over 319,000 of these students have accepted the “Challenge” by making a written personal commitment not to engage in violence and by preparing writings on the causes of and solutions for youth violence.

All of the entries in this book were read by multiple panels of volunteer judges who continued to narrow the field until the young men and young women finalists were chosen. The judges represent a cross section of Palm Beach County educators, parents, law enforcement and judicial leaders who are committed to solving the problem of violence in our community. We are grateful to all of the judges who contributed their wisdom and a considerable amount of time to read and select the best entries.

We are privileged to send one young man and young woman as guests of the local committee to serve as Ambassadors from Palm Beach County in the national recognition ceremony this summer. They will join the other Do the Write Thing Ambassadors from across the country and meet with National leaders to address the problems of youth violence.

The Do the Write Thing Challenge was established by the National Campaign to Stop Violence (NCSV) and is administered by the national office and by the local committee in each participating region. The NCSV seeks out individuals and businesses that want to make a difference in the lives of young people. If you would like to help the NCSV with your time or resources, please contact the National Campaign to Stop Violence at 910 17th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: 202-2934483 or 800-256-0235. You can contact the local committee through its chairman, Bill Bone, Esquire, at 550 South Quadrille Boulevard, Suite 200, West Palm Beach, FL 33401. Telephone: 561-832-0623.
DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE

2011 PALM BEACH COUNTY
DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE

Cohen Pavilion, Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

May 9, 2011

PROGRAM

BILL BONE, ESQ.
Larmoyeux & Bone, PL
Palm Beach County Chairman, National Campaign to Stop Violence

PEPE FANJUL, JR.
Executive Vice President, Florida Crystals Corporation
Palm Beach County Sponsor

BILL MALONE
Superintendent, Palm Beach County Schools

CAPTAIN JEFF LINDSKOOG
Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office

HONORABLE RONALD ALVAREZ
Judge of the Palm Beach County Circuit Court, Juvenile Division

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT SPEAKERS:
(Listed alphabetically)

Meagan Adams, Boca Raton
Candice Arthur, Lake Worth
AlisonMae Austria, Roosevelt
Richard Belarde, Lake Worth
Ja’Kethia Brown, Lake Shore
Robert (RJ) Brown, Western Pines
Christopher Burrett, Watson B. Duncan
Nathanael Carman, Osceola Creek
Kevin Castro, Lake Worth
Taylor Collin, Don Estridge High Tech
Charles Comiter, Omni
Emmanuel Concepcion, Palm Springs
Travis DePanicis, Woodlands
Daya Desai, Bak
Miles Fertel, Omni
Christina Gambale, Palm Springs
Olivia Gregory, Carver
Alejandra Gutierrez, Congress
Wyatt Hinkle, Boca Raton
T’Yanna Holman, Howell L. Watkins
Samantha Krasker, Conniston
Kimberly Le, Jupiter
Sean McGee, Osceola Creek
Kathleen Mager, Watson B. Duncan

The entire ceremony will be filmed for broadcast on The Education Network (T.E.N.) on Comcast Channel 97 at the end of the month. T.E.N. is the television station for the School District of Palm Beach County. For broadcast times, contact the station at (561) 738-2926.
DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE

Participating Middle Schools and Top 10 Students

Bak Middle School of the Arts
Elizabeth Kennedy, Principal
Joshua Cruz
Daya Desai
Samantha Dumala
Julian Frias
Celia Gerber
Shelley Kaleita
Dakotah Nuro
Jamie Salinger
Aniya Smith
Jacob Wesson

Boca Raton Middle School
Jack Thompson, Principal
Meagan Adams
Michael Basalyga
Bibencia Bertran
Samantha Bodner
Abigail Coughlin
Kiona Davis
Magali Franco
Peirce Herrmann
Wyatt Hinkle
Danielle Maher

Carver Community Middle School
Lena Roundtree, Principal
Marie Dorismond
Rodriguez Estimable
Olivia Gregory
Robenson Lafleur
Steven Louis
Sherrar Moore
Nafisa Nazir
Ricardo Picazo
Rhiannon Rice
Sandy Soussaint

Christa McAuliffe Middle School
Faith Ann Cheek, Principal
Taran Burrell
Carly Colella
Alexa Dours
Emily Fernandes
Rebecca Gavel
Madison Kaizen
Irene Kamel
Kierstin McClintock
Niko Notare
Therese Tran

Congress Middle School
Kathy Harris, Principal
Destinee Allen
Yaritzta Bello
Juan Domingo – Jimenez
Diana Garcia
Alejandra Gutierrez
Vidia Narine
Madeline Nesen
Christina Ocean
Gwynne Richardson
Deidreanna Soto

Conniston Middle School
Mary Stratos, Principal
Victor Castro
Marcos Gonzalez
Vincent Hulme

Conniston Middle School cont’d
Eric Jones
Preston Kirschner
Lucy Krasker
Samantha Krasker
Carina Lopez
Tiffany Royle
Bryana Scala

Don Estridge High Tech
Middle School
Karen Whetsell
Aitana Arguedas
Taylor Collin
Kerry Gao
Lindsay Mangines
Ben Melman
Maria Montes
Kaylan Ramesar
Hailey Skiff
Yuria Utsumi
Lauren Villanueva

Eagles Landing Middle School
James Campbell
Alessandra Barbuto
Marla Ciesla
Alexis Larkin
Bronson Lovejoy
Samantha McGuire
Ashley McKnight
Skylar Meadows
Akash Mohan
Joseph Santiago
Laura Toledo

Howell L. Watkins Middle School
Glenda Sheffield, Principal
Jenny Amisial
Michael Campbell, Jr.
Sherline Charles
La Tania Cruz
Elizabeth Francois
T’Yanna Holman
Kim Luu
Madison Micochero
Brittney Nicolas
Loudha Smith

Jupiter Middle School
David Culp, Principal
Gavin Baker
Michelle Ess
Kristina Fisher
Aaron Gomez
Logan Greerer
Kimberly Le
Christine Marlow
Marshall Minning
Shelby Rubin
Brittany Wolfe

Lake Shore Middle School
Floyd Henry
Juan Barona
Ja’Kethia Brown
Modeline Celestin
Jose Lara
Fiorina Louis
Jolaine Louis-Charles
Adrianig Pryce

Lake Worth Middle School
Jeff Eassa, Principal
Candice Arthur
Richard Belarde
Melanie Camejo
Tiffany Canate
Maria Castellon
Kelvin Castro
Rose Favreau
Lamar Kirkland, Jr.
Precious Perez
Kerry Toussaint

Lantana Community
Middle School
Edward Burke, Principal
Nerea Anaya
Eden Ash
Shameka Currie
Kristen Hepner
Vanessa Hernandez
Tiffany Maliseydan
David Olavarria
Helena Philemon
Kayla Teixeira
Krystal Ward

Omni Middle School
Pierre D’Aoust, Principal
Charles Comiter
Miles Fertel
William Gardner
Tzy Hsu
Hannah Jinnier
Annalyza Montes
Cassidy Moorman
Carl Reyes
Markie Rowan
Holly Tishfield

Osceola Creek Middle School
David Alfonso, Principal
Justin Caprio
Nathanael Carman
Jacob Cook-Laplant
Clyde Goodall
Savana Greishshheimer
Joan Griffith
Kenneth Lutz
Madiyn Mahle
Sean Mc Gee
Madison McPoyle

Palm Springs Community
Middle School
Sandra Jinks, Principal
Clifford Carmichael
Emmanuel Concepcion
Christina Gamble
Valentina C. Hernandez
Nathanael Hicks
Eric Lassalle
Teyaji Mays
Aliza Torres
Sarah vanHorn
Jolynn Weeks

Roosevelt Community
Middle School
George Lockhart, Principal
Jamie Adams
Alison Mau Austria
Marisela Benitez
Carrie Biddle
Janairh Dames
Pheobe Hernandez
Tautiyauna Pannell
Janan Prendas
Lucie Raymond
Paula Torrez-Ortiz

Tradewinds Middle School
Becky Subin, Principal
Halli Bitzter
Skylar Cross
Noemi Etienne
Katelyn Jones
Jonathan Kara
Jacenya Knight
Diahna Le
Mark Robles
Allie Warner
Christopher Wright

Watson B. Duncan
Middle School
Jose Garcia, Principal
Makayelle Bufano
Christopher Burrett
Alex Cabrera
Nikolas Cook
Terrance Cripe, Jr.
Kathleen Plager
Ashlyn Peter
Lauren Rodger
Baylen Sparks
Raymond Yim

Western Pines Middle School
Robert Hatcher, Principal
Taylor Allen
Robert (Rj) Brown
Taylor Caputo
Brianna Clark
Tangy Elizondo
Brooke Herron
Cristian Lagos
Kara Speranza
Camila Yeps
Hunter Young

Woodlands Middle School
Tanya Daniel, Principal
Miis Akel
Madison Barry
Travis DePanicis
Carson Kiser
Angelina Khan
Alexis Krawczyk
Antonella Solis
Shiva Saintfort
Lara Tessler
Nelson Leo Vil
2011 DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE FINALISTS

Selected from Participating Middle Schools in Palm Beach County

YOUNG MEN

1st Place Ambassador
Jacob Wesson
BAK Middle School of the Arts

2nd Place
Nathanael Carman
Osceola Creek Middle School

3rd Place
Robert (RJ) Brown
Western Pines Middle School

The Ambassadors from Palm Beach County

The first place young man and young woman are given the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC as Ambassadors representing Palm Beach County in the national recognition week ceremonies held July 16th through the 20th this summer. Students are accompanied by a parent and a teacher from their school. The local committee pays all the major expenses of the Palm Beach County delegation such as air travel and hotel accommodations.

The National Campaign to Stop Violence is especially grateful to Florida Crystals Corporation, the William H. Pitt Foundation, Southwest Airlines, and the Kuwait America Foundation and the law firm of Larmoyeux & Bone, P.L. for helping to underwrite these expenses.

The Published Writings of the “Top 10” Best Submissions

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place young men and young women appear at the front of this book. Thereafter, all student writings are listed in alphabetical order by school.

In an effort to honor stylistic decisions and in recognition of the fact that this challenge is more about finding solutions for the problem of youth violence, then it is about the “skill” of writing, the 210 “Top 10” submissions published in this book have not been edited for grammar, spelling and structure. Students were judged on the content of their work and their response to these three questions:

• How has violence affected my life?
• What are the causes of youth violence?
• What can I do about youth violence?

Congratulations to Every Student who Participated in this Program!
# PREVIOUS DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE FINALISTS

## 2008 FINALISTS

### YOUNG MEN

**1st Place Ambassador**
Nicholas Galarza  
Congress Middle School

**2nd Place**
Thomas Baker  
Watson B. Duncan Middle School

**3rd Place**
Ryan Roy  
Congress Middle School

### YOUNG WOMEN

**1st Place Ambassador**
Madeleine Kaye  
Bak Middle School of the Arts

**2nd Place**
Caroline Sans  
Bak Middle School of the Arts

**3rd Place**
Bridgette Gamble  
Palm Springs Middle School

## 2009 FINALISTS

### YOUNG MEN

**1st Place Ambassador**
Christian Correa  
Palm Springs Middle School

**2nd Place**
Roy Brown  
Tradewinds Middle School

**3rd Place**
Brandon Ives  
Osceola Creek Middle School

### YOUNG WOMEN

**1st Place Ambassador**
Kaaza Lightbourne  
Congress Middle School

**2nd Place**
Kira Ogburn  
Bak Middle School of the Arts

**3rd Place**
Destiny Martinez  
Omni Middle School

## 2010 FINALISTS

### YOUNG MEN

**1st Place Ambassador**
Maxx Melanson  
Boca Raton Middle School

**2nd Place**
Christian Coury  
Watson B. Duncan Middle School

**3rd Place**
Chad Bonincontri  
Western Pines Middle School

### YOUNG WOMEN

**1st Place Ambassador**
Jessica Stone  
Palm Springs Middle School

**2nd Place**
Joelishia Banfield  
Osceola Creek Middle School

**3rd Place**
Vanessa Guerrero-Cruz  
Christa McAuliffe Middle School
PALM BEACH COUNTY
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Bill Bone, Esq. Campaign Chair
Civil Justice Lawyer
Larmoyeux & Bone, PL

Honorable Ronald Alvarez
Judge, Juvenile Court
Palm Beach County Circuit Court

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw
Palm Beach County

Honorable Paulette Burdick
Palm Beach County Commissioner
District 2

Don Carson
Retired Executive Vice President
Florida Crystals Corporation

Barbara Cheives
Chair
Criminal Justice Commission

Honorable Ted Deutch
Member of Congress
19th District of Florida

Pepe Fanjul, Jr.
Executive Vice President
Florida Crystals Corporation

Honorable Carey Haughwout
Public Defender
15th Judicial Circuit

Sandra Jinks
Principal
Palm Springs Community Middle School

Bill Malone
Superintendent
Palm Beach County School District

Honorable Jeri Muoio
Mayor
City of West Palm Beach

Captain Jeff Lindskoog
Community Services
Palm Beach County Sheriffs Office

Honorable Allen West
Member of Congress
22nd District of Florida

Kim Williams
Assistant Director
Student Intervention Services

EX OFFICIO

Alan Gallardo
Assistant to Steering Committee
Director of Client Relations
Larmoyeux & Bone, PL.

Elaine Meier
Publicity
Elaine Meier Associates

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Lisa Cone
Director of Program Expansion
National Campaign to Stop Violence
Nothing makes a more lasting impression on young people than acknowledging and rewarding their efforts. Through the generosity of **Florida Crystals Corporation** we are hosting the “Top 10” students, their parents and teachers from each of the participating middle schools at the recognition luncheon on May 9th, 2011. Florida Crystals underwrote the costs of the luncheon and of sending the Palm Beach County ambassadors to Washington, D.C. this summer. We are grateful for Florida Crystals’ financial support and for the active participation of **Mr. & Mrs. J. Pepe Fanjul, Jr.** in organizing the Palm Beach County effort. Florida Crystals, headquartered in Palm Beach County is the world’s largest producer of refined sugar.

Each middle school Principal who took the effort to make sure that at least 50% of the students from his or her school participated in the challenge has received a $500 gift from the **William H. Pitt Foundation**. We thank the foundation for underwriting the cost of these “no strings attached” grants. The William H. Pitt Foundation is headquartered in Palm Beach, Florida. **Robert G. Simses, Esq.**, is the Foundation’s President and CEO and its local Directors are Pauline Pitt and The Honorable Lesly Smith.

The thoughts and ideas of the “Top 10” best student submissions who participated in the challenge at each school have been published in this book for the benefit of all who care about the problem of youth violence and struggle to do something about it.

The entire cost of this publication was also underwritten by a grant from the **William H. Pitt Foundation**. This book is dedicated to the Foundation with grateful appreciation for all they do to help young people across America. We also thank our typesetter, Louise Hildstad, as well as Patty and Bill Vitale, and Susan Smith from Vital Printing Corp. for their contributions to this publication.

The law firm of **Larmoyeux & Bone, P.L.** underwrote most of the administrative costs for the efforts of the Palm Beach County Steering Committee. Volunteers from the firm include: **Bill Bone Esq.**, Whitney Hildstad, Aimee Kelley, Elsa Martinez, Liz Townsend and Jeff Chapin. We especially thank **Alan Gallardo**, Assistant to Bill Bone, Esq. and Director of Client Relations at Larmoyeux & Bone, P.L. for his organizational skills and leadership efforts throughout the project.

We also thank these organizations and volunteers: **The School District of Palm Beach County** for putting this program into the middle schools and especially **Bill Malone**, Superintendent, for his commitment to this event and **Liz Perlman**, Director of Curriculum for Palm Beach County Schools; **Student Intervention Services** in the Department of Safe Schools, especially **Kim Williams**, Assistant Director; **The Criminal Justice Commission** for their experience working with the issues of youth violence, especially **Barbara Cheives**, Chair; **The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office** for their efforts to prevent youth violence and combat the problem before it starts, especially **Ric Bradshaw**, Palm Beach County Sheriff, **Captain Jeffrey Lindskoog**, Community Services Division, and **Cpl. Rafael Duran**, Training Officer; **The Education Network (T.E.N)**, especially **Greg Kenney** for filming and broadcasting the banquet ceremony; **Special Impressions** at the **Kravis Center** and their staff, especially **Rocco Bettaglia** for helping us make our banquet ceremony an unforgettable event. **Elaine Weber** and Elaine Weber Designs, Inc. for creating the original cover and design of this book, and **Elaine Meier** for her help in promoting this year’s “Do The Write Thing” Challenge.
JUDGING COMMITTEE

Reading and judging all the writings submitted by the 19,000 Palm Beach County students who participated in the 2011 Challenge was an enormous undertaking that would not be possible without the assistance of the teachers, administrators and staff of the participating middle schools together with the members of the Local Steering Committee who made certain that every student who submitted a writing was considered.

We are grateful to **Lourdes Fanjul** for Chairing the Young Women’s committee and **Circuit Court Judge Ronald Alvarez** for chairing the Young Men’s committee. Two other independent judges were instrumental in organizing the process and selecting the finalists and they are **Mary Simses, Esq.** a philanthropist and community volunteer and **Jose Tagle**, executive assistant to **Jeri Muoio**, Mayor of City of West Palm Beach. Also, **Barbara Cheives** from The Criminal Commission.

Additional organizations involved in the judging process were:

**The Office of Congressman Ted Deutch**, 19th Congressional District lead by Darcy Farnan, District Representative, and their support team: Courtney Bafer, Jill Benson, Alex Rocha, and Sam Kalmowicz.

**Sheriff Ric Bradshaw**, The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office and his team of volunteers led by Captain Jeff Lindskoog and Cpl. Rafael Duran.

**Pepe Fanjul Jr.**, Executive Vice President of Florida Crystals Corporation and his support team at the Palm Beach County headquarters, especially Angela Blumberg, Angela Pasquarelli and Paulina Pasquarelli.

**The Honorable Carey Haughwout**, Palm Beach County Public Defender led by Jennifer Loyless and, her support team: Jessica DeVera, Patricia Esterby, Yvette Fansworth-Baker, Mattie Fore, Tom Inskeep, Tangerine Rice, Jane Sullivan, Barbara White and Tephaine Whitmore.

**Bill Malone**, Superintendent, The School District of Palm Beach County and Liz Perlman, Director of Curriculum for Palm Beach County Schools and their support team: Brenda Civitello, Stephanie Coletto, Angie Fitch, Sandee Fleming, Keisha Johnson, Nikki Jones, Stephanie Pectal, Diana Snider and Judy Kern and Diana Yohe.

**The Honorable Michael McAuliffe**, Palm Beach County State Attorney and Sarah Alsofrom and their support team: Alexander Brand, Barbara Burns, Debra Colton, Brian Dettman, Lindsey Marcus, Kathryn Lewis, Reid Scott, Andrew Slater, Stephanie Toledo and Michelle White.

**Kim C. Williams**, Assistant Director, Student Intervention Services, Department of Safe Schools, School District of Palm Beach County and her support team: Margaret Kallman, Specialist, and all the Staff in the Department of Safe Schools.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

We would like to thank **Davone Bess** and **Brett Loewenstern** for their participation in the “Do the Write Thing Challenge.”

We appreciate their words, actions and inspiration to all of our young people.
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