



In partnership with the SIU School of Medicine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PARENT HELP LINE PARTNERS WITH SCMSA, BULLY PREVENTION TASK FORCE
TO PREVENT BULLYING IN SCHOOLS**

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Sangamon County Medical Society Alliance will celebrate SAVE Today on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 9 and 10, and throughout October.

Partnering with the Parent Help Line at St. John's Children's Hospital and the Springfield Bully Prevention Task Force, Alliance members developed an 8-page booklet, *SchoolTime: Dealing with Bullying*. This resource for parents and professionals provides tips to help targets, bullies and bystanders. It tells parents how to build their child's self-esteem and social skills. It also contains a chart that helps parents and kids identify the acts of bullying in their lives.

"Bullying hurts all kids. Parents and kids need the tools and social skills to stop bullying in their schools, homes, and communities," said Pat Graham, President of the Parent Help Line Advisory Board and Alliance member. "If the target and bystander tell the bully to stop, the bully stops the hurtful behavior in 10 seconds half the time. Parents can teach their kids what to do and say. They can lessen the hurt of bullying."

On October 9, the Alliance will present a program to Boys and Girls Club students at 4:30 p.m. Then, at 5:15 pm they will share the new booklet with Springfield Bully Prevention Task Force members at their monthly meeting held at the Boys and Girls Club.

Log onto www.parenthelpline.org to access the new booklet under the Bullying section. Or, call the Parent Help Line at 217-544-5808 or toll free 1-800-727-5889. Trained volunteers offer support, information and referral about bullying or any parenting issues.

ABOUT ST. JOHN'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

St. John's Children's Hospital is the only comprehensive child health care facility in south-central Illinois. We provide vital health care for the region's children, from infancy through age 18. Established in 2005, St. John's Children's Hospital is part of the Hospital Sisters Health System family. Sharing the legacy of providing top quality health care services that date back to the early 1920s, we are committed to delivering superior care to our youngest of patients, their families and our community. For more information, visit www.sjschildrens.com.

ABOUT SAVE

The AMA Alliance created the Stop America's Violence Everywhere (SAVE) in 1995 to combat the growing problem of violence. SAVE Today serves as a day of action opportunity, when medical families across the country work together to reduce violence in their community.

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