



The Amanda Network-ABC



www.CambrianParkUMC.org/Opportunities/Social-Justice/Amanda-Network.html

**“The Amanda Network-ABC”
c/o CPUMC
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San Jose, CA 95124
1-877-559-7779 vm/fax**

Non-Profit 501 (c) 3 Tax ID 94-6034786
A mission of CPUMC
(Cambrian Park United Methodist Church)

AMANDA'S STORY:

On December 11, 2008, Amanda Brownell (16 years old) tried to take her life in a bathroom of Del Mar High School in San Jose, California. This was due to verbal bullying, sexting and cyber bullying she endured through MySpace, Facebook and AIM. A month prior to her suicide attempt, Amanda received 3,500 text messages. Amanda showed some of the text messages to some friends who were also aware she was cutting her arms. Her friends never said anything to anyone or sought any help for Amanda because they all thought she could handle this on her own.

Amanda's suicide note states that the bullies told her she was a: heartless b@#%h, lesbian, gay, bisexual, was pregnant and had AIDS and was spreading it. To whoever finds me... yes this is suicide... deal with it. I bet nobody's going to even remember my name after this, Goodbye A, S, A, N, V... all of you who actually cared, I'm not sorry, Goodbye forever world.

Today, at 20 Amanda lives in a 24/7 care home close to her parent's home. Due to the trauma that Amanda sustained from her suicide attempt, she is unable to walk, talk or eat on her own. She is fed through a feeding tube and has to wear diapers. She continues to blink twice for yes, hello and thank you and even smiles. She now makes small purposeful movements on her right side using her hand, foot and head to control an adaptive switch. Her progress has exceeded all the medical expectations of someone with her type of trauma. Please include Amanda and her family in your prayers as they continue to share her story to others.

**YouTube Group:
AmandaNetworkABC**

**Facebook Page: The Amanda
Network, Anti-Bullying Campaign**

Twitter: @Amanda_Network

For more information about Amanda visit:

www.CaringBridge.org/visit/AmandaBrownell



**Ann Solorio Brownell, Mother and
Founder of The Amanda Network,
ABC (Spanish/English)
For a presentation at your school or
club, contact:
Ann@AmandaNetwork.org
408-507-2787 cell phone**

WHY PURPLE SCARF'S?

**Purple = Amanda's favorite color,
Color of Peace (Gangs – WAR Red
+ Blue = Purple), Royalty (Queen,
King, Princess, Prince), Bravery
(Purple Heart)**

No one should ever feel that they are not valued. Because you are here you matter! Ask for help if you are thinking of doing what Amanda did.

WE REALLY DO CARE!

**AMANDA NETWORK
PLEDGE:**

**I pledge to not allow
bullying in my presence.
If I don't report it,
I am just as guilty.**

“THE AMANDA NETWORK-ABC”:

The goal of this anti-bullying campaign is to bring more awareness and education on the issue of bullying, suicide and self-harm. By sharing Amanda’s story and other stories with our communities and schools, we encourage all to treat everyone with respect and take a stand against all forms of bullying, relational aggression, LGBTQQ (or “perceived to be”) hate, child abuse, domestic violence and all abuse or hate in their presence.

Our goal includes encouraging new policy changes to the Education Code, State and Federal Laws. “The Amanda Network-ABC” wants public accountability and strengthened support for these new laws. Everyone can be a member of this grassroots network. Together we can make this change happen, TODAY!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

“It’s not the bullies that hurt us most but it’s our best friends that don’t defend us.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Information flyers, Parents Guide on what to do if your child is being bullied, law updates, and the next Amanda Network presentations can be found at:

www.AmandaNetwork.org

TIPS FOR ALL

Protect yourself and know your Rights –

If you are physically assaulted/bullied - **CALL 911**
– tell your parents or a trusted adult.

Be respectful and follow the rules!

Don’t give your school any excuses for treating you badly by behaving badly yourself. This can make things harder to solve in the long run. Explain your grievances in a mature, respectable manner.

Document everything!

Keep a record of the ‘Six Ws’ each time you are bullied/harassed...

1. **WHO** was involved?
2. **WHAT** happened?
3. **WHERE** it happened.
4. **WHEN** it happened.
5. **WHO** you reported it to.
6. And if there were any **WITNESSES**.

DO NOT DESTROY ANY EMAILS, IM’s OR TEXT MESSAGES RECEIVED! PRINT AND SAVE EVERYTHING!

Keep copies of anything in writing that you file with the school and be sure to write down the date. Also take notes about any additional conversations you have with school administrators, and be sure to write down the dates for those too.

File a complaint!

Your school is required by law to have a clear process for filing complaints of bullying harassment. Ask what this process is, and follow it. Your school must keep your identity confidential and protect you from retaliation.

“So long as we have enough people in this country willing to fight for their rights, we’ll be called a democracy.”

**-ACLU Founder Roger Baldwin
www.aclu.org**

All School Districts make policies concerning bullying, but they will take their direction from the State Superintendents office and the State Superintendents

office takes their direction from lawmakers. Some schools will only do what they are mandated to do.

The State Superintendent would develop a model policy for the schools to follow as well as gather anti bullying programs that are working around the U.S.A. The School District’s Board of Education would then adopt their own policy according to the law and take a proactive approach by finding the anti bullying program of their choice. It’s time that every school in this country have a clear direction to stop the hurt and pain that goes on every day in a place where our children should feel safe and secure.

Always remember that you are the most important person in upholding your own rights, and that includes the right to be yourself!

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

Informative Websites

**The TREVOR Lifeline - LGBTQQ
www.TheTrevorProject.org
Saving Young Lives
1-866-488-7386**

Update on state laws, what parents can do if your child is being bullied. Ann Brownell listed as a Recommended Speaker
www.bullypolice.org

US Cyber-Bullying Research Center for instructions to obtain/print cell phone records and other evidence:
www.cyberbullying.us

If your child is being threatened, go to
www.stopcyberbullying.org

Safe Tips to Help Prevent Digital Abuse
www.wiredsafety.org