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Local Author Shares Her Story of Grief in the newly released book *Bullycide in America*

September 10, 2007 – WA – What happens when a child is bullied to the point of hopelessness? For some young people the only escape from the pain is suicide.

Bullycide in America, Moms Speak Out About the Bullying/Suicide Connection is filled with the real-life stories of parents who share their own personal pain as they watched their children suffer and struggle because of the bullying epidemic.

This is a book of real stories about real kids. Kids who took their own lives because they thought it was their only way out of a hopeless situation. It is about the tragic choices they made in an effort to end the pain - when they believed there was no other solution.

Researchers acknowledge that within the teen population, there is a “high prevalence of bullying behaviors.” The National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center [NYVPRC] reports that suicide is the third leading cause of death among teenagers - almost 2,000 teens are successful in their attempts to end their lives each year.

The mothers who tell their stories in this book do not need researchers or experts to make the connection between bullying and suicide. They know firsthand that as long as we intellectualize this phenomenon and debate it, it will remain an impersonal subject of speculation, avoidance, paralysis, guilt, and blame rather than one of responsibility and change.

This book is for those of you with young children, who will soon be preteens, and it is for teenagers. It is for grandparents who are watching over loved ones. This book is for people who work in law enforcement, health care, education, or in any profession involving children and teenagers. It is for concerned citizens who simply want to be educated so they can help to make a difference.

The vision for the book came from Brenda High. Having lost her 13-year-old son, Jared, on September 29, 1998 to suicide as a direct result of being bullied, Ms. High has made it her personal mission to educate as many people as possible as to the risks involved in youth suicide.

In addition to coordinating efforts with other parents who have lost a child to bullying in order to educate the public of this silent epidemic, Ms. High works with state lawmakers to get anti-bullying laws passed, educators to create an attitude of change and parents to teach the importance of documenting bullying.

Bullycide in America is available at www.bullycide.org

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