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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“BULLYING AWARENESS” Presentation in Ferndale**  
Understanding Bullying, Its Impact and How to Talk to Children,  
Schools, and Community Leaders About It.

**Bloomfield Hills, Michigan...** Why should parents, schools, and community members address bullying? Answer: An estimated 160,000 children miss school every day because they are afraid they will be attacked or intimidated by other students. Drs. J. H. Hoover and R. O. Oliver found that 25 percent of students in grades 4–8 experienced academic troubles as a result of bullying. Children who are bullied are five times more likely to be depressed and suicidal, and students who bully are more likely to fight, drink, and smoke than their non-bullying peers. Bullies are four times as likely to have three or more criminal convictions by age twenty-four.

Ferndale Youth Assistance has sponsored Oakland Mediation Center to conduct a Bullying Awareness workshop to parents as well as school and community members. This workshop will focus on understanding bullying, and the myths and truths behind the behavior. It will speak to the impact bullying has on all youth. Also included in the workshop will be tips and skills for parents on how they can talk to their child and their child’s school about fears over being bullied or bullying of others.

The workshop will take place on Thursday, November 17, 2011 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Coolidge Intermediate, School 2521 Bermuda Street, Ferndale, MI, 48220. Space is limited so please pre-register with Stephanie McGowan by calling 248.586.8700 by Wednesday, November 16, 2011. There is a fee of \$5.00 per person payable to Ferndale Youth Assistance, 881 Pinecrest, Ferndale, MI 48220.

“OMC’s mission is to help the community peacefully resolve conflict through mediation and education,” said Bonnie Hanes, OMC Executive Director. “We believe the greatest impact OMC can have on our community is by preparing our youth for the future”.

To learn more about bullying prevention initiatives, please contact Kenzi Bisbing, Youth Services Manager, at (248) 338-4280, Ext. 216, or [kbisbing@mediation-omc.org](mailto:kbisbing@mediation-omc.org).

*Oakland Mediation Center is a private non-profit organization that has served the community since 1989 by providing mediation services for individuals, businesses, courts, schools and agencies; 40-hour Civil, Domestic and Advanced Mediator training as well as conflict resolution, peer mediation, bullying prevention/intervention, and restorative practices in schools. Visit OMC’s web site at [www.mediation-omc.org](http://www.mediation-omc.org).*

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