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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Bonnie Hanes, OMC Executive Director
(248) 338-4280, ext. 212
bhanes@mediation-omc.org

**The Million T-shirt March Against Bullying!
Oakland Mediation Center Sells T-shirts to Raise Awareness and Funds to End Bullying!**

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan... 2-3 children in every classroom spend their day afraid because they are being bullied. Bullying is a strong contributor to poor grade performance, low attendance, and student disengagement in the classroom and can eventually lead to dropping out of school. Michigan is experiencing a drop out crisis of tremendous proportion—approximately 21,000 students per year. We cannot afford the social or economic costs of increased crime rates, lower tax revenue, strained social services, and fewer well educated workers to attract 21st century jobs.

Bullying is a hot topic in today's society simply because it is a problem that has grown out of control. Not only is there bullying in our schools, but there are also a growing number of workplace bullying episodes every year. This social disease strikes at the very core of basic human behavior and we must find a way to stop bullying now. In order to meet this challenge head on, Oakland Mediation Center has joined The Million T-Shirt March Against Bullying.

Imagine one million people wearing the same shirt, on the same day to make a powerful statement, "It's time for Bullying to END!" Everyone across the nation can take part in this rally on May 17th to not only to help raise awareness about bullying— but also help raise funds for much needed programs such as the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program which gives schools and parents the tools and resources they need to effectively prevent and intervene in Bullying long term.

Oakland Mediation Center is uniquely qualified with expertise in programs proven to prevent and reduce bullying and violence, keeping kids in school and out of the juvenile justice system. Due to the current economic crisis funding has been cut from the Federal and State Budgets, forcing OMC to rely on donations.

"OMC's mission is to help the community peacefully resolve conflict through mediation and education," said Bonnie Hanes, OMC Executive Director. "Raising funds to deliver programs that prevent and reduce bullying in our schools is critical to our community. We hope to see thousands of our shirts worn on May 17th for the Million T-shirt March."

The Official "Million T-shirt March" t-shirts can be purchased from OMC for \$15 by February 28, 2012 at www.mediation-omc.org. 100% of the proceeds raised by OMC will be used to implement the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program.

To learn more about the Million T-shirt March or the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, please contact Kenzi Bisbing, Youth Services Manager, at (248) 338-4280, Ext. 216, or 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.

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