FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 15, 2012

Anti-Bully Rally is set for J.K. Gotwals Elementary School at Montgomery County Court House

Take a Stand Against Bullying: May 17, 2012 10:00am

Norristown, PA (May 15, 2012) -- The J.K. Gotwals Elementary School of the Norristown School District is taking part in the nation’s largest and most ambitious anti-bullying rally ever attempted - The Million T-Shirt March Against Bullying.

The school has partnered with several Montgomery County agencies and Continental Bank to take part in the event against bullying. Children who bully and who also are bullied by peers (often referred to as “bully-victims”) appear to be at the greatest risk for suicidal thoughts and behavior, according to studies. The County organizations including the District Attorney’s office, Communities that Care for Youth/Family Services, Judge Garrett Page, and Sheriff Eileen Behr are taking part in the event.

Principal Jeanette Fernandez hopes to be part of more than a million people nationwide on May 17 to wear the same anti-bullying shirt. This is also an attempt to set a Guinness World Record of “the most people wearing the same shirt on the same day.”

The students and staff of J.K. Gotwals Elementary School will march to the Court House at 10 a.m. and hold a rally on the plaza to take a stand against bullying. (Schedule is below.) The public is invited to take part in the rally to show support for the fight against bullying.

There are about 160,000 children that miss school every day due to bullying. About one out of every 10 students drop out or change schools because of repeated bullying. Statistics for 2010 revealed about one in seven students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade is either a person who bullies or has been a victim of bullying. Sometimes a teen or child who has been bullied eventually becomes the bully as a way to retaliate.
New statistics show that there is a growing body of research examining the association between involvement in bullying and suicide among children and youth. Most studies are correlational and show that children who are involved in bullying (as victims of bullying, perpetrators of bullying, or both) are more likely than those who are not to have depressive symptoms, high levels of suicidal thoughts, and attempted suicide.

For additional information, contact Principal Jeanette Fernandez at 610-275-1077

J.K. Gotwals School
Anti-bully march and rally at Court House
“The Million T-Shirt March”

Thursday, May 17, 2012

10:00 am  Students / Staff start march from school to the court house
(Norristown Police & Deputy Sheriffs will escort, provide traffic control, and security)

10:10 am  Arrive at Court House
Music / Sara Goldbloom will be singing

10:15 am  D.A. Risa Ferman – Welcome and opening remarks (5 mins.)

10:25 am  Music / Song - “Stand By Me”

10:30 am  Judge Page remarks – (5 mins.)

10:35 am  Sheriff Behr remarks – (5 mins.)

10:40 am  Music / Song

10:45 am  Principal Fernandez – Closing and start of march back to school
Music playing during departure - “Fireworks” by singer Katie Perry

Location:
Court House Plaza – podium will be set up near the entrance, above stairs
Facing toward Main Street