

# PeaceBuilders Program Implementation



## case study – alternative school

# Deborah Tennant-Zinewicz School

## Significantly Reduces Violence and Builds Relationships

### Problem:

In 2008, the staff at Deborah Tennant-Zinewicz School (DTZ) in Norwich, Conn. embarked on a mission to substantially improve the quality of the educational experience offered at the school. The number of suspensions and calls to the police had become a significant concern. Staff and students were in need of a common language to facilitate problem-solving.

### Solution:

DTZ staff was trained by PeaceBuilders professionals to work with students to reduce aggressive and violent behavior and create a more peaceful, productive environment. Fortified with new curriculum and strategies, teachers set clear expectations for student conduct and reinforced desired behaviors and achievements with praise, encouragement and acknowledgement.

### Results:

PeaceBuilders helped reduce violence through an active, structured process that builds a sense of community and commitment to non-violent, sustainable relationships. Principal Woody Crowley says that PeaceBuilders is helping achieve measurable, sustained improvements in student behavior at DTZ by providing a clear, easily understood language that staff and students can effectively utilize when addressing conflicts and struggles within the school community. In addition to the students attending DTZ school, beneficiaries of the PeaceBuilders program include the families, the staff, and the students' home communities.

*“Children in Natchaug’s other programs are also benefiting, as staff throughout our system bring the PeaceBuilders successes into their treatment milieu. We are very pleased with this program!”*

### About PeaceBuilders:

PeaceBuilders is the science-based, research-validated character education and violence prevention youth program approved for the federally funded Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act. It is a culture/curriculum hybrid program that shifts the entire climate to a peaceful, productive and safe place for children, parents and the community. Our experienced corporate team manages the PeaceBuilders program to work seamlessly with any organization seeking peaceful solutions.

### Contact:

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### results:

- Suspensions decreased from 27 before PeaceBuilders to 5 in same period of following year.
- 73% reduction in phone calls to police.
- Switched from locked facility to unlocked due to substantial improvement in student conduct.
- Significant decrease in number of youth leaving grounds without permission.