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ZOE'S WORLD: Students, Community Don't Want Bullying To Continue

By Zoe Mena

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Bullying is not an option in our community, school or even in our society. **PeaceBuilders** is helping get the word out by shooting a music video.

That video was shot last weekend on the Peninsula and at Rogers Middle School. The video was based on a song by Cathy-Anne McClintock, a well-known folk singer. The story featured her daughter, Tessa McClintock, playing the part of a student victim of bullying. The young actress has no friends since her best friend moved away. Antonia Molina plays the role of a popular student who sticks up for her.

"A lot of kids who are bullied every day whether it's cyber bullying, verbal bullying or physical abuse and they are afraid to be themselves and afraid to stand up for themselves," the younger McClintock said. "I know that once they know they are not alone in the world, there will always be someone looking out for them, we will be able to rise above the bullies. This video can help them understand that. That's the whole point of **PeaceBuilders**."

Bullying is a very sensitive subject. Victims can become so emotionally disturbed that they can try to kill themselves, switch schools or even move. Bullying often focuses on kids who are different.

I was asked to play the bully in the video but that doesn't mean I agree with bullying.

People are not all the same and can be different in personality, or even the way they dress. There is nothing wrong with being different and sometimes I love sticking out from the crowd with the occasional cowgirl boots or army jacket.

Another lesson was learned as the video was shot with 11 kids on hand. The video takes a lot of work especially since the cameramen said they had to take three different shots of the same scene.

We also were reminded that we have some talented neighbors. The song "No Matter What," by Cathy-Anne McClintock, is an amazing song. Cathy-Anne is a very talented singer. Her daughter Tessa is also an extraordinary singer.

Even when Tessa was at a party she grabbed the piano and started playing a song and singing. Some of my friends felt like crying she was so good.

My friends were all very excited to participate in this project. "I agreed to do this because Tessa's my friend and I thought it would be fun," Devynn Ellis said. "I knew it would be fun to do it and give back to the community," Peter Bohn added. "I agreed to do this because I knew that maybe it could help make a difference in people and help raise awareness on bullying," added Molina.

Zoe Mena is a seventh grader at Rogers Middle School.