



Peer Solutions is an Arizona-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1996 with a Mission: *to cultivate healthy communities through **STAND & SERVE** (S&S), a primary prevention initiative fostering safety, equality and respect as norms.*

STAND & SERVE was piloted in 1997 at Tempe High School with support from the Arizona Department of Health Services. We now facilitate weekly activities with 12 school communities with the support of over 20 partners. 30,000 individuals are exposed to activities annually.

STAND & SERVE is a peer-leadership initiative designed by and for the schools, families and communities we serve. S&S members are provided with tools and opportunities to bring their communities together to define the problem and design the solution. S&S members develop, facilitate and evaluate activities, serve on the Peer Solutions Board of Directors and facilitate at local and national conferences. S&S has been showcased as a promising model across the country including Arizona, California, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Kentucky, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming.

STAND & SERVE activities include:



1. Weekly peer led **STAND & SERVE** lunch meetings and outreach with local high schools in Phoenix and Tempe.
2. Weekly peer led, **STAND & SERVE** afterschool and summer workshops and activities for elementary, middle and high school students across Tempe and Phoenix.
3. Monthly **STAND & SERVE** Coalition Meetings. School, family and community partners developed **THE GUTS TO BE GOOD** initiative, five things we can do to cultivate safety, equality and respect as norms. 1. The guts to be RESPECTFUL, 2. The guts to be COURTEOUS, 3. The guts to SPEAK UP, 4. The guts to be HONEST and 5. The guts to LEND A HAND.
4. Monthly **STAND & SERVE** service projects with Homeless Youth/Families in Maricopa County and others in need. And S&S outreach campaigns on and off campus to include monthly staff memos, announcements and lunch time activities.

S&S works to prevent child abuse, sexual, relationship, family, gang, gun and school violence, suicide, depression, oppression, substance abuse, poor school performance, homelessness and more. To prevent one is to prevent them all as the underlying conditions that lead to their existence including violence perceived as normal, silence/denial and oppression, are similar, if not the same.



One of our **S&S** members just returned from Washington DC after meeting with the President and receiving the **2010 National Youth of the Year Award** from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

S&S received the 2010 City of Phoenix Hero Award, the 2010 Prevention Investor Award from the Purple Ribbon Council, the 2010 Making a Difference for Championing Youths Award from the Children's Benefit Foundation, the 2010 City of Tempe Diversity Awards and the 2010 Governor's Volunteer Service Award. S&S raised \$5,712 for Haiti and \$900 for Children First Academy with BHHS Legacy Foundation support.

S&S members presented **STAND & SERVE – Working Together to Build the World We Want Live In** at the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence Conference in Arizona and at the National Sexual Violence Prevention Conference in California in September 2010. Peer Solutions is assisting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the development of National Sexual and Interpersonal Violence Prevention Program and Evaluation Guidelines.

Evaluation: 9/2010 evaluation results indicate an average pre-test score of 65/101 and an average post-test score of 85/101. New students score significantly lower than S&S members that have been in the club two years or more. In May of 2010, we conducted a survey of 25 past S&S members dating back to 1998. 100% reported a positive impact of S&S currently in their lives and are still involved in volunteering in their communities. The following is one of our favorite quotes from this survey.

"I joined STAND & SERVE in 7th grade. S&S has done a lot for me. I could go there to escape the harsh things life threw at me. Community service and peer educating did so much for the person I've become. S&S gave me tons of resources and pointed me in the right direction. When I was a younger member I was taught lessons and given factual information on good and bad going on around me. Things are happening in the world that I have the right to know about including how to do my part to fix them and deal with them in positive ways. Although I'm in a different state and different place in my life, I still catch myself using the things I've learned over the 6yrs I've been a part of the S&S family. This organization is built on hard work, good, genuine people and tons of love."5/2010 Anthony is now 20.

S&S works to create the change we wish to see in the world. Violence has been normalized. We must eliminate the reasons why violence exists while working to cultivate a world where it does not. This is a world where safety, equality and respect are norms. This is a world where if someone is harmed, every one speaks up, when they feel safe, with empathy, compassion and adequate resources for all. This is a world where everyone is committed to preventing violence before it begins. This is a world we want to live in.

"S&S brings people with the same ideas and views together. It shows how many people really care about the world."

"By teaching other kids about violence and why it was wrong, as well as how to prevent it, I think we helped them to go out and help put an end to it."

"S&S causes the students who are in it to become safe responsible bystanders & speak up when something is wrong."

"S&S helps the community find a resolution to problems and sends a message to respect one another."

"They put the truth out there and make a change through that."

"I joined to learn more of my community and also to be more active in it. To stand up in what I believe in and help out the community."

"I try to understand other's culture and that there are issues underneath that don't show."

"I learned to stand up to what's wrong, and I am not afraid to speak. My friends do it too."

"My daughter respects herself more and is learning the ability to stand up for herself. She uses examples from S&S at home when there are problems instead of getting mad."