“Uniting communities to create safe, healthy, and thriving environments for our children and families.”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHOOSE PEACE WEEK 2012: DARE 2 CARE ACROSS BROWARD

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL - (August 20, 2012) – Choose Peace/Stop Violence is proud to announce the 3rd annual Choose Peace Week which takes place from September 17th through September 21st, 2012, throughout Broward County.

Choose Peace Week is a yearly event celebrating the community’s commitment to end youth violence. Since inception, it has grown to include people and organizations across the county.

Choose Peace Week also serves as a kick off to the 2012 campaign theme DARE 2 CARE which was developed by Broward County students. Earlier this year, schools were asked to create a message that reflects students’ efforts to create environments that are free from bullying and violence. The contests’ winning entries were submitted by Gulfstream Middle School and South Broward High School. Both schools will receive $1,000 towards their prevention program. Gulfstream Middle School created school-based activities that focus attention on bullying and a bullying prevention poster which will be displayed in all Broward County schools. South Broward High School created a video that graphically challenges us to look at the effects of cyber-bullying. Students of each school are featured in both the poster and the video.

In recognition of Choose Peace Week 2012, we are also asking communities to celebrate DARE 2 CARE on September 19th and spend an “Evening on the Front Porch” to support the power of community involvement in Broward County. Studies show that community members who have strong ties to their neighborhoods are committed to keeping their neighborhoods safe for children and families. An “Evening on the Front Porch” celebrates our community and is designed to create an opportunity for neighbors, community groups, businesses and faith-based organizations to come together in a casual way to strengthen neighborhood ties. These types of events will create a chance for
neighbors to become a visible part of their community, to share ideas, introduce an improvement project or discuss a plan that will make a difference for their community.

“In decades past, folks would spend many evenings sitting on their front porches and visit with their neighbors”, says Nancy Vaniman, Project Director of Choose Peace/Stop Violence. “By knowing your neighbors, you build communities with strong social ties and more civic engagement. An “Evening on the Front Porch” is a celebration of our community. It is a great way to bring people together and we hope that the connections neighbors create will last throughout the year and beyond”.

For more information on Choose Peace Week 2012 activities, “Evening on the Front Porch” events throughout Broward County and the Choose Peace/Stop Violence initiative visit www.choosepeacestopviolence.org.

About Choose Peace/Stop Violence

Choose Peace/Stop Violence is a county-wide violence prevention collaborative whose vision is for youth and families to thrive in safe and healthy neighborhoods, vibrant with opportunities for personal, educational and economic growth.

Choose Peace/Stop Violence is overseen by Project Bridge, a Safe Schools Healthy Student Initiative guided by a Core Team of advisers representing some of the most influential community organizations in Broward County. Project Bridge’s program components are designed to prevent violence and substance abuse among our nation’s youth, in our schools and in our communities. The membership includes Broward County Public Schools, Broward County Health Department, Broward Sheriff’s Office, Broward County Children’s Services Administration, Children’s Services Council of Broward County, Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Memorial Healthcare System, 2-1-1 Broward and the United Way of Broward County.