

Operation Respect—Non-Profit Fundraising Video
Excerpt

BOY 1 VO

I used to be put down because of the way I dress, the way I act, or the people I hang out with.

GIRL 1 VO

People, they just walk by and say real stupid things.

BOY 2 VO

Prejudice is sort of contagious.

GIRL 2 VO

I couldn't do anything because I just went into a new school and I didn't really know anybody.

GIRL 3 VO

So he comes over and spits in my sandwich and...he was standing there laughing.

GIRL 4 VO

They made her feel stupid and she didn't understand.

GIRL 2 VO

I just walked away and they were laughing and I just walked away.

MUSIC

NARRATOR VO

Every child deserves to learn in a safe, caring, and respectful environment. But sadly, many children are denied this basic right.

WONG OC

The whole atmosphere of bullying, of uh, disrespect, of violence in the schools is so much greater now than it used to be.

AMANDA

The older kids will think they're cool and just book the younger kids, you know, slam their books on the floor. The papers go flying.

LANTIERI

...a lot of it happens out of the sight of other adults. Uh, it happens in the hallways, on the way to school, in the bathrooms.

MATHEW OC

I think it's a lot of denial on the adult's part, you know...not wanting to bring up a topic.

NARRATOR VO

But ignoring it only makes it worse, allowing name-calling and bullying to multiply unchecked.

PRICE OC

If you are in an environment that's unsafe where you're thinking about who's going to tease you, taunt, you and harass you, you're not thinking about math, science and English.

WALKER OC

It's very difficult to succeed academically if you're hurting or if you've been hurt....

WALKER OC

When we talk these days about accomplishing the academic goals of "no child left behind", the great fear is that we can leave children behind in a very hurtful way.

NARRATOR VO

Every day, about one hundred and sixty thousand children miss school out of fear of being bullied, harassed, or humiliated.

LANTIERI OC

That's the statistic from the American Psychological Association. What about all the young people that don't tell us that that's happening for them?

PRICE OC

People concentrate a lot on the bully or they concentrate a lot on the victim. But the largest numbers are the people that are bystanders.

NARRATOR VO

Six out of ten American teens witness bullying at least once a day.

NARRATOR VO

Allowing name-calling and bullying compromises student performance, damages mental and physical health, and perpetuates a cycle that can lead to ever-greater forms of violence.

MUSIC

NARRATOR VO

But it doesn't have to be that way. Teachers and students can create environments where differences are celebrated and harassment isn't tolerated. All it takes is respect. Operation Respect.
