

CAB chairwoman didn't expect anti-bullying group to go this far

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It started with one bullying incident, an email and a meeting, and Danielle Borgerson-Nesvold had no idea that the Community Against Bullying group would get this far. The goal was just to find a way to protect children, she said.

"I didn't expect any of it," Borgerson-Nesvold said. "It's a cause. I just want to see kids who want to be something great. I just don't want to see anybody take that away from them."

Kids are no doubt important to her; she's a daycare provider out of her home as well. Along with her son, Sam, 12, Borgerson-Nesvold has two daughters: Julie, 7, in first grade at Southgate Elementary School, and three-month-old Gina.

CAB has grown to about 30 members. Lots of them come out to help with events, but others work behind the scenes. Paperwork has been filed for CAB to become an official non-profit group. The CAB Facebook group is also up to more than 500 members.

In Borgerson-Nesvold's eyes, the group's biggest accomplishments have been bringing The Scary Guy to town last fall to give his anti-bullying presentation, and the annual fundraiser "Take It to the Streets" to bring awareness to the community.

Money aspect aside, Borgerson-Nesvold was amazed at all of the words of encouragement from people during the Take It to the Streets event. So many wanted the information that CAB provided, and some even came back again to pick up sheets for their friends.

"To me that's huge," Borgerson-Nesvold said.

It can be easy to become complacent and just think that bullying is a right of passage, so the goal is to keep the message out there. The challenge might be figuring out how to keep reinventing the information, she said. It takes time, but CAB is building a strong foundation

Borgerson-Nesvold said she's learned and grown a lot from her experience leading CAB, and she's become a more forgiving person.

"I look at people differently now," she said. "What I'm learning, I want other parents to know."

She knows they're never going to completely stop bullying, but she enjoys hearing the stories of kids who have prevailed.

"Support's free," Borgerson-Nesvold said. "You just need people. People are a way better resource than money."

Borgerson-Nesvold enjoys volunteering and helping her community. She's also involved in her church, Cornerstone Church in Austin, along with CAB and Jaycees activities. She said she spends at least an hour on CAB-related items each day.

"I was a scared mother in the beginning," Borgerson-Nesvold said. "And now, I've learned a lot about

myself.

"Now, I definitely don't see an end to it (CAB). We can't stop now."