

CNN takes interest in Austin group

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Austin's Community Against Bullying group will get some national attention this week. A producer and reporter from CNN will be in town Thursday and Friday to cover C.A.B. and its fundraising efforts.

Producer Emily Probst and a reporter will stop at Danielle Borgerson-Nesvold's home Thursday to talk with her about how C.A.B. got started back in February 2011. The group is humbled and flattered regarding the national attention their efforts have drawn, said Borgerson-Nesvold, who's chair of the group.

"I have a really hard time grasping this concept, until they get here," she said.

The news crew will then follow Borgerson-Nesvold to C.A.B.'s meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Neveln Elementary School. The crew will talk to the people at the meeting and look to find out more about why this is an important campaign in Austin, Borgerson-Nesvold said.

C.A.B. will be in the homecoming parade Friday afternoon. Before the football game, members also will be selling T-shirts and anti-bully bands, offer face painting, hand out invitations to future fundraisers and speak with people interested in the efforts of the group.

CNN will stick around for these homecoming festivities as well. Borgerson-Nesvold said she isn't sure how CNN will go about covering C.A.B..

"I think it's pretty surreal that they want to see what we're doing," Borgerson-Nesvold said. "If our group can inspire other people or other communities to do the same, that's going to be a wonderful outcome in this."

She initially received a call in August from a representative from the "Anderson Cooper 360" program after the show had heard about the efforts of C.A.B. The show was interested in the fundraising projects that the group had going; C.A.B. is in the process of raising \$20,000 in order to bring in the motivational speaker The Scary Guy.

It's now official that internationally known, Minnesota native The Scary Guy will be coming to Austin Oct. 31 through Nov. 11. His mission is "The total elimination of hate, violence and prejudice worldwide," according to his website.

So far, the group has raised close to \$8,000 total, Borgerson-Nesvold said. They have had fundraisers, accepted donations and have qualified for eight grants. She had emailed The Scary Guy because she wasn't sure if they would be able to get the money together so that he could come and speak.

But The Scary Guy and his representatives have followed C.A.B. closely through the media and Facebook, so they said he would come to Austin and would help C.A.B. make it work. Yet C.A.B. is not off the hook for the \$20,000.

"We're still actively raising money," Borgerson-Nesvold said. "It's coming in, piece by piece. We're going to get there."

Plans are in the works for The Scary Guy while he's in town. It will be important to make sure he gets to every school, and he's planning to connect with parents, groups that work with children and city staff.

C.A.B. encourages folks to go to The Scary Guy's website at www.thescaryguy.com before judging him by what he looks like on the outside, Borgerson-Nesvold said.

"It's not about meeting some guy covered in tattoos and piercings," Borgerson-Nesvold said. "It's about hearing his message.

"I already know who The Scary Guy is, and I know what he's about, and I know what he can do. Our group knows that."

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