

S.A.L.T.

(Save A Life Today)

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“TEEN SUICIDE PREVENTION” AND “EFFECTS OF BULLYING” FOCUS OF THIS YEAR’S 6th ANNUAL SOUTH DALLAS YOUTH CONFERENCE

DALLAS – May 21, 2011 –Mount Olive Lutheran Church, hosting its 6th Annual South Dallas Youth Conference on Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., has enlisted the resources of the Suicide & Crisis Center of North Texas, Kristen (Dr. G) Guillory, PhD, Griot Melody “AFI” Bell and Native Dance Troupe Mitotiliztli Yaoyollohtli to headline this year’s conference. This year’s event is designed to plug into the heart of many of the issues facing our youth today. Among the topics to be addressed are two prevailing issues: “Teen Suicide Prevention” and “Effects of Bullying.” This year’s line-up of speakers and performers each bring their own unique contributions to this event. This free one-day event targeting youth Ages 5-18, is geared toward providing opportunities to learn about heritage, develop skills, competencies and have positive experiences with caring adults.

According to **Pam Davis, LCSW**, statistics show that suicide is the third leading cause of death of young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Even more alarming, every four days we lose a child to suicide. Hence, the Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas located in Dallas, Texas with continuous operation since 1968, will address the topics of “Teen Suicide Prevention” and “Effects of Bullying.” While not necessarily related, these two issues are on the front burner of troubled areas impacting the lives of our youth. The Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas is one of fewer than 80 centers nationwide to have achieved certification by the American Association of Suicidology, the national accrediting body for suicide prevention and crisis intervention centers.

The keynote speaker, **Kristen “Dr. G” Guillory, PhD**, is a motivational speaker, evaluator, professor, president of KSGuillory Enterprises and host of the Internet radio show, “Word Up with Kev and Dr. G.” She speaks candidly about dating, self-esteem, education, relationships, abstinence, being single and spirituality. She is a sought-after speaker, and proud 30 year old virgin whose popular topics include “No Sex in the City” and “Do Something About it or Shut Up.”

Dr. G received her bachelor’s degree from TCU, taught her first college course at 24 and graduated with her PhD from UTA at 27 being the youngest and only African American in her cohort. She strives to be a positive role model for others and wants to help them reach their fullest potential. Dr. G has worked with all populations including gang members, homeless, teen parents, and abuse survivors and has been invited to present her research internationally.

Melody “AFI” Bell received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education from East Texas State University. During her ten years of public school teaching, she invited a storyteller to the school and then decided she could do just as well. Melody has over 15 years of experience as a griot/storyteller. She has performed at many public and private schools, libraries and many cultural events in the Dallas/FT.Worth metroplex. She has been featured on Fox’s “Insights” and WFAA’s “Family First”. She is a griot/storyteller full time.

For the past 14 years, **Mitotiliztli Yaoyollohtli** (Heart of the Warrior Aztec Dancers), a tribal dance troupe, has been keeping alive centuries old ceremonies, rituals and traditions of their ancestors. La Danza Mexihka (Azteca) is a living, evolving and cultural tradition filled with the artistic and spiritual tradition of the Mexihka. La Danza is a form of prayer, individual and yet communal. It is a way of life, all encompassing. It is a rich blend of music, choreography, poetry, theater and most important of all, of deeply held spiritual faith.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, located at 3100 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas, TX, has embarked on a deliberate journey to support healthy youth development by providing opportunities to minister to their whole being. The church indicates it wants to be intentional about providing opportunities for building relationships, mentoring, and helping to shape the lives of our youth. This event is the 6th annual conference and is absolutely free and open to **ALL** youth Ages 5-18. Meals will be served. Parents are encouraged to come and bring their youth. There will be something for everyone.

This event is sponsored, in part, by grants from the Mission Endowment Fund, City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and Terry and Vetia Smith.

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Kristin (Dr. C) Guillory, PhD

