



MEDIA RELEASE

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NOVA's Upstander Day, A Celebration of Kindness & Inclusion Draws a Large Crowd

(BUCKS COUNTY, Pa.) NOVA, the leading non-profit organization in Bucks County supporting victims of serious crimes, celebrated Upstander Day on September 16 at the Dublin Fire Company, in Dublin, PA. This was a free, community event that celebrated Upstanders - individuals of all ages who, when they see bullying behavior, take steps to safely offer help.

More than 400 attendees came out to experience family-friendly games, crafts and entertainment; sample treats from food trucks and see demonstrations by first responders. Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R, 01) stopped by to lend his support. The event raised over \$3,000 to help support NOVA's work in Bucks County.

The idea for Upstander Day arose from NOVA's Encourage Upstanders program. Encourage

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Upstanders is a peer education program that trains students at Pennridge High School to deliver an educational program about being an Upstander throughout the Pennridge School District's elementary and middle schools. Program topics include promoting kindness, preventing the bystander effect, how to help others, and learning about support resources. Students involved in this program volunteered at this event and taught attendees about being an Upstander.

"NOVA brought together a community of caring to demonstrate what it means to be an Upstander and share our values of caring, kindness and inclusion," said Michelle Cash Director Of Development. "Upstander Day would not have been possible without the support of our community and our sponsors."

- Gold sponsor:
 - Bucks County Community College
- Silver Sponsor:
 - Yogamazia
- Bronze Sponsors:
 - Univest Financial Corporation
 - TruMark Financial Credit Union
 - TapInto Doylestown
 - Stark and Stark

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- QNB Bank
- Grim, Biehn & Thatcher
- East West Karate
- Circle Speech Services
- Anne O'Day Orthodontics
- Bucks County Health Improvement Partnership (BCHIP)

Plans are underway to make Upstander Day an annual event. Those interested in getting involved can join next year's Upstander Day committee. To learn more, contact Ashley Doyle, Event Organizer, at Ashley.Doyle@novabucks.org.

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About NOVA

NOVA supports, counsels and empowers victims of sexual assault and other serious crimes in Bucks County and works to prevent and eliminate violence in society through advocacy, training, community education and prevention programs. Founded in 1974, NOVA is a non-profit 501(c)(3), community-based organization operating out of three offices in Fairless Hills, Jamison and Perkasio. Services are made possible through the financial support of federal, state and local government grants and contracts, corporations, foundations and private donations. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For more information, visit www.NOVABucks.org.

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UPSTANDER DAY

A free, fun-filled community event for families

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Photos and captions courtesy of NOVA:

Image #9172: Penridge Upstanders Erin Farr and Riley Williams with a Bucks County Sheriff's Officer and his K9.



Image #9173: NOVA High School Primary Prevention Coordinator Katie Sanford and NOVA Director of Prevention and Training Mary Worthington pose in front of NOVA's tent with Joseph Werner, Penridge High School Social Worker.



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Image #9174: Michaela Burroughs, NOVA High School Primary Prevention Coordinator, Katie Sanford, Chloe Kircher, NOVA Educators Lori Fisher and Pamela Lang, Brenda Peralta Joa, Riley Williams, Aubrey Bailey, and Pennridge High School Social Worker Joseph Werner, were all on hand for Upstander Day, held at Dublin Fire Company on Sept. 16.



Image #9175: Upstander Day attendees add positive messages of support to a living mural from the Bucks County Anti-Racism Coalition.



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Image #9171:

NOVA supporters display signs about kindness in celebration of Upstander Day.



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