

Children's Advocacy Center

of Laredo-Webb County



Jenna Quinn
Portrait of a Survivor
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Fall 2012

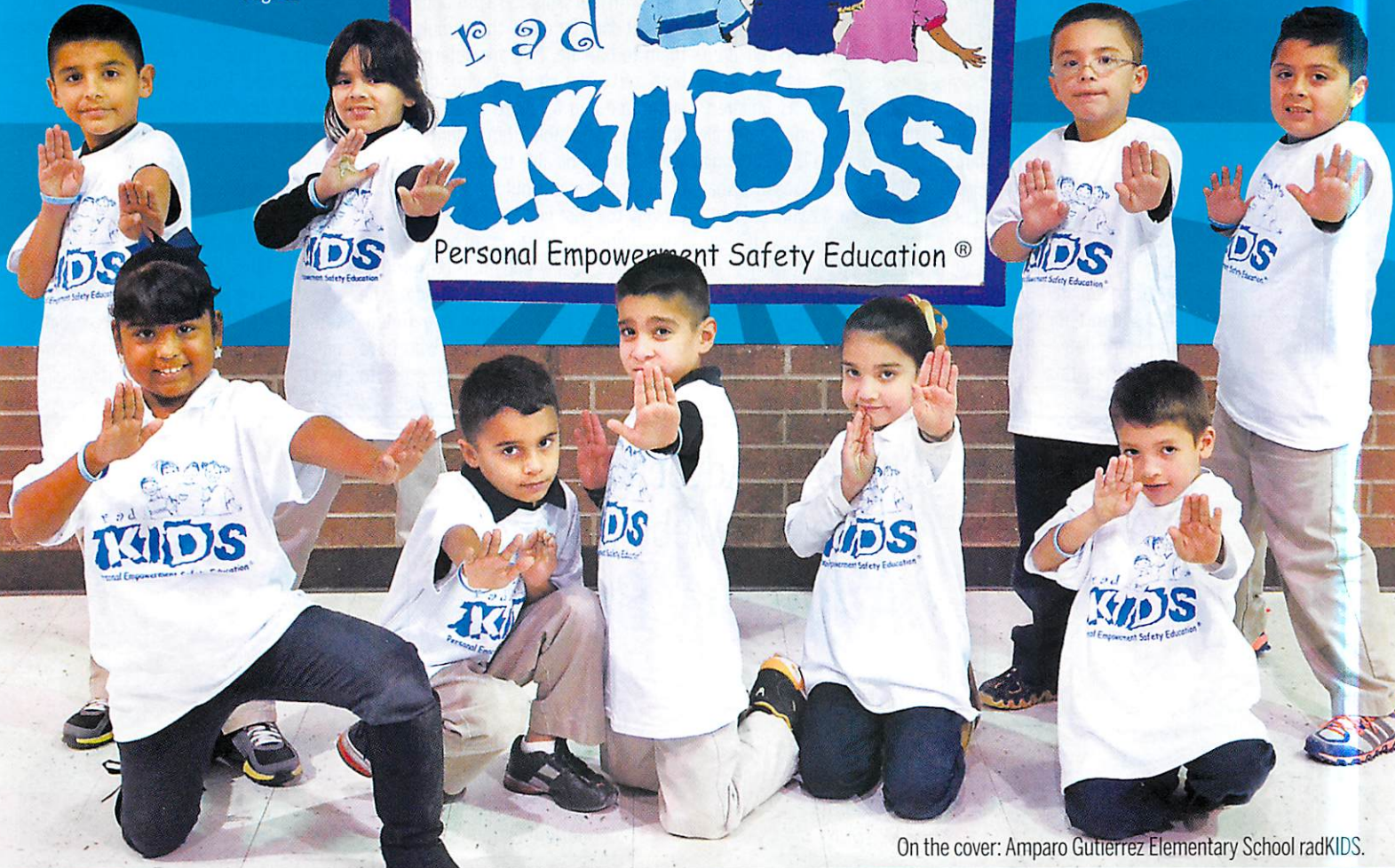
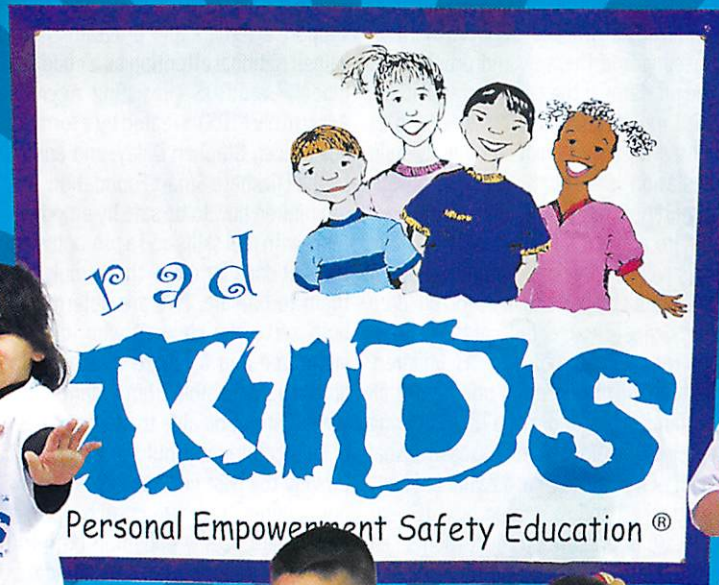
resisting aggression defensively KIDS

**Youth Empowerment
Safety Education**

Breaking the Cycle of Violence
and Victimization

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rad
KIDS



On the cover: Amparo Gutierrez Elementary School radKIDS.

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Personal Empowerment Safety Education®

Breaking the Cycle of Violence and Victimization

Outcome: The Community Role Model and Leader to Peers -
(Being all you can be) Change in community culture and climate.

The Empowered Child - radKIDS® rule #3: "It's not my fault." How DARE you try to hurt me! Potential to "Never be a victim."

Physical Resistance to Violence/Self-actualization of Personal Skills - radKIDS® rule #2: "I don't have the right to hurt anyone else unless they are hurting me." The ability to stop assault physically with intention to escape, not harm.

Verbal and Positional Conflict Resolution - Practicing steps to carry out planned responses through activity-based drills on the fly.

Personal Context - (Through the eyes of the child) Realization of capacity to confront fear, trust instincts, problem solve and make a realistic plan to conquer them.

Self-Value/Self-Worth - radKIDS® rule #1: "No one has the right to hurt me because I am special." Develop a positive/optimistic view of self and confidence in child's strengths and abilities.

Personal Experience Environmental Context/Education - The Child learns what is going on in the environment. (Learning by seeing). Learning is created by others: family, faith, environmental consequences. (Street Smarts).



radKIDS®
Mentor
Change
Agent

CAC offers self-defense skills

Editor's Note

Our CAC Board and Staff spotlight this remarkable child safety program, showcasing a number of especially notable achievements:

- In the space of just a little over a year, Steve Daley's first presentation to our community having taken place in October, 2011, our Laredo education community has wholeheartedly adopted and supported **radKIDS**, and generous donors have funded it.
- Laredo ISD and United ISD as well as our very first private school, United Day School, have made **radKIDS** a part of their essential curriculum.
- One hundred and thirty three educators have been certified as **radKIDS** coaches, with additional opportunities forecasted in 2013.
- Year to date, over 3200 youngsters are now **radKIDS**.
- **radKIDS** is being implemented in both school districts and UDS, with 2nd graders the focus of instruction in the public schools. NOTE: Laredo ISD middle school students are also receiving **radKIDS** training and UISD has plans to do the same.
- Both school districts, as well as UDS, have created a long-term **radKIDS** implantation plan, their objective to train all elementary and middle school students.
- Laredo is the only city in the United States that is implementing the **radKIDS** safety plan for its children in a systemic manner, via its school systems.

BY JJ VELASQUEZ

Laredo Morning Times

Published: Wednesday, November 14, 2012

A self-defense program for kids is coming full-circle this year as Laredo students will soon complete the 10-hour course.

United Independent School District coaches and counselors on Tuesday exhibited the simulation aspect of the program, known as **radKIDS**.

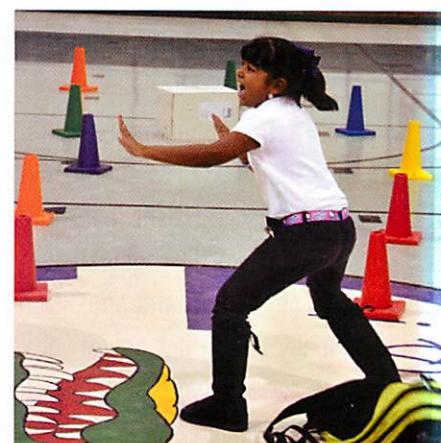
Laredo is the only community to implement the program in all of its public schools, according to Stephen M. Daley, the program's founder.

"That is remarkable in itself," said Sylvia Bruni, executive director of the Child Advocacy Center of Laredo-Webb County.

Bruni and about 30 UISD staff members were on-hand Tuesday for the demonstration.

The coaches and counselors, who are among a combined force of 60 **radKIDS** trainers at the district, learned how to conduct and administer the simulations.

Lisa Haberkorn, UISD assistant director of athletics, said the district began training second-grade



students in September.

All 26 UISD elementary schools have started the program, she said.

Haberkorn said the program equips students with the tools to prevent an attack either from a predator, an assailant or a bully.

Elizabeth Smart, who was famously kidnapped as a teenager in the early 2000s, advocates for the child safety program.

Bruni said a majority of attacks against children occur in the dark, in silence or in secret.

The program doesn't preach a step-by-step approach but rather encourages children to think instinctively and develop their own plans for stopping the incident and escaping.

Daley said the simulation represents the full realization of power within the child.

He said completion of the program often effects self-confidence and a sense of empowerment among those who complete the course.

"This is not about fighting; this is not about violence," Daley said.

"This is about stopping someone from hurting you.

We're actually teaching how to do that instead of just telling them what to do."

The organization has recorded 91 instances where **radKIDS**-trained children were threatened with violence and came out unscathed, he said.

More than 250,000 children have been trained in the program, according to its website.

UISD is targeting a goal of training every second-grader this year, Haberkorn said.

The long-term goal, said Bruni, is for every Laredo child to become a **radKIDS**.

(JJ Velasquez may be reached at 728-2579 or jjvelasquez@lmtonline.com)

A resounding **radKIDS Laredo Thank You** for the community friends of our CAC, whose visionary commitment to the safety of our children inspired their financial support of **radKIDS** training for our school partners. We believe that you have set in motion a sea-change in our community that will reap potentially lifesaving benefits for our children:

- BBVA Foundation
- D.D. Hachar Charitable Trust Foundation
- District Attorney Isidro Alaniz
- Guadalupe & Lilia Martinez Foundation
- Prairie Foundation
- Sheriff Martin Cuellar
- South Texas Outreach Foundation