

Youth Development Collaborative to Host Film Screening: THE UPSTANDERS

10/18/2023 – **The Upstanders** is unsettling and uplifting, causing us all to examine our behavior, inspiring us to do better, be better, and stand up against victimization and cyber-bullying. On Thursday, October 26th at 7:00pm, United Way Manitowoc County's Youth Development Collaborative will hold a special screening of **The Upstanders** to open up a dialogue between local families, community leaders and experts. The event will be held at the Franciscan Music Center and feature a viewing of the 56-minute film, followed by an informative panel discussion. No registration is necessary. Area youth-serving organizations, clubs and programs will also be on site for attendees to connect with following the film screening.

Attendees will leave with a better awareness of:

- The science behind cyber-bullying
- Why kids are afraid to admit they are cyber-bullied and signs to watch for
- Best ways to support your cyber-bullied child
- How to realize if you are harboring a cyber-bully
- How the community can show resilience and power to end bullying

The Upstanders digs deep into cyber-bullying, showing the perspectives of those who bully, their victims, and the trauma of the bystander. Woven through this film is the very personal, first-hand account of a family's tragic loss that inspired new legislation to turn the tide against this very real epidemic.

"As I child, I was spat on, kicked and pushed into lockers," says iNDIEFLIX Filmmaker & CEO Scilla Andreen. "As painful as that was, the meanness stopped at my front door, and I was safe when I got inside my home. But today, with the quick push of a few buttons, the bullies have the ability to persistently harass, humiliate and degrade their peers 24/7. We are eternally grateful to the Molak family who let us document their journey, as they channeled their grief into tangible change: the creation of David's Law."

The film features in-depth interviews with kids, families who have lost their children to cyber-bullying related suicide and the very best experts in the world from prestigious institutions including Stanford University and Child Mind Institute in NYC. **The Upstanders** also includes two members of Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour: Jesse Israel of The Big Quiet, and Radha Agrawal of Daybreaker, and author of *Belong*.

The mission of United Way's Youth Development Collaborative is to promote healthy social and emotional development, resilience and educational achievement of all youth residing in Manitowoc County. Members include county-based school districts, community agencies and youth services as well as mental health providers. The team's goal is for all Manitowoc County Youth to achieve 8th grade success benchmarks so they are ready for high school and beyond. To learn more about the Youth Development Collaborative, contact Angelica Schmitt, Director of Impact Strategies, at Angelica@unitedwaymanitowoccounty.org. Thank you to The Production Farm, Crossfire Ranch and the Franciscan Music Center for helping to coordinate with United Way Manitowoc County to bring this event to Manitowoc.