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## Sedona filmmakers putting final touches on bullying documentary

***Bullied to Silence* set to debut in Boston**

The evil of bullying is exactly the kind of topic that inspired Susan Broude and Tami Pivnik to go into the filmmaking business.

The Sedona women founded Purple People Inc. to promote healing, love and peace in the world and celebrate individuality. Making documentaries to bring about change in how people treat one another became a priority, especially as news reports of the tragic consequences of bullying continued to grow around the country.

Now, Broude (writer/producer) and Pivnik (director/editor) are in post-production on *Bullied to Silence*, a feature documentary set to debut at the Boston Film Festival on April 16.

Their idea for the documentary was born several years ago, but the importance of the subject continues to be clear.

Broude, unfortunately, only has to point at the recent school shooting in Ohio in which five students were injured, three of them fatally.

Several of those in *Bullied to Silence* speak of becoming depressed, isolated and after years of being bullied, just "snap." Based on the early reports of T.J. Lane, the Ohio shooter, he appears to have been bullied and then "snapped."

*Bullied to Silence*, Broude points out, is meant to give a voice to those who have been bullied and documents the impact of words. It focuses exclusively on the physical and emotional impact of words stated in person or through cyber-bullying.

The film includes dozens of nationwide and international youth from all walks of life, ethnicities, physical challenges, sexual orientations, communities and ages who share their stories of coming close to ending their lives or becoming violent as a result of being bullied and are now empowered to be the change.

International bullying and violence expert, Michele Borba, contributor to the "Today" show, CNN and others, felt so passionately about the message in *Bullied to Silence* that she volunteered her time and expertise for the film.

Reports on 2011 research including actual MRI films and results showing the changes in the brain and the emotional toxicity to youth are exclusively released from Harvard for use in the film.

*Bullied to Silence* is current with coverage of the most recent events into 2012, including the suicide of Jamey Rodemeyer and Lady Gaga's tribute to him and Amanda Cummings' January suicide.

Many exclusive interviews including Tyler Clementi's cousin, Casey Heynis, Brett Loewenstern, the American Idol top 24 contestant, and footage from the White House Anti-Bullying Conference including comments from President Obama and the First Lady are included.

For further information about *Bullied to Silence* or to be involved in the project, contact Producer Susan Broude, visit the website and view the 3-minute trailer at <http://bulliedtosilence.com> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/bulliedtosilence>.



Courtesy images

Sedona filmmakers Tami Pivnik and Susan Broude (back) with the Gaylord family.



Tami Pivnik is behind the camera for a scene from *Bullied to Silence*.