TO BE PLACED ON LETTERHEAD

DATE

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROSPECTIVE FUNDER

**RE: Grant Request for Award-Winning Anti-Bullying Speaker**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing on behalf of INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL to request a grant in the amount of FILL IN AMOUNT for an anti-bullying speaker as part of NAME OF SCHOOL’s ongoing efforts to maintain a safe and inclusive environment for our students. Specifically, a grant award would allow NAME OF SCHOOL to host a student assembly presentation and parents’ night program by award-winning speaker and author, John Halligan, of **Ryan’s Story,** to occur on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FILL IN DATE.

**About SCHOOL:** INSERT INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL HERE.

**Bullying and Its Harm:** School bullying is far too common in our society and has proliferated with social media. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, nearly 1 in 4 students between the ages of 12 and 18 attending schools nationwide indicate they have been bullied. Among U.S. high school students, 19.5% reported being bullied on school property while 15.7% reported experiencing electronic bullying.[1] School bullying is a major public health threat as it presents a variety of developmental and psychological adolescent hazards that stretch into adulthood problems. Bullying victimization is linked with a plethora of adverse health risk behaviors, including but not limited to, mental health risks (including anxiety, depression, and suicidality), substance use, and poor school performance (absenteeism and grade point average).[2]

**Program Description:** NAME OF SCHOOL is committed to fostering a respectful and positive atmosphere where every student feels valued and supported. We seek to reinforce our expectation that students navigate complex and challenging social situations by building an environment of mutual respect for the dignity of each person as a child of God. Our students will learn to protect the solidarity of the school community by resolving issues positively through practicing empathy, compassion, and Christian charity. We feel these objectives will be bolstered by hosting a renowned speaker and author to address our student body and parents and the ideal of a loving and bully free school environment.

**Ryan’s Story** is a highly impactful presentation to middle and high school students about the potentially dire consequences of bullying and ridicule. John Halligan lost his thirteen-year-old son, Ryan, a middle school student in Vermont, to suicide on October 7, 2003. It was revealed in much greater detail after Ryan’s death that he was ridiculed and humiliated by peers at school and online. As the creator of this transformative program, Mr. Halligan believes that depression was the root cause of Ryan’s tragic passing. Therefore, **Ryan’s Story** includes a discussion of mental health issues that are often swept under the rug. Students are encouraged to seek help without delay if they or a friend are in crisis, reinforcing the importance of suicide prevention.

**Ryan’s Story** focuses on: 1. Reaching Hearts, 2. Changing Minds, 3. Reducing Bullying and 4. Preventing Suicides.

**Ryan’s Story** has the power to inspire positive change in the fight against bullying, cyberbullying, and teen suicides. This powerful true story encourages students to turn their gaze inward, helping them examine how they treat others.

This sensitive and age-appropriate program is a 60-minute program tailored for grades 5-12. The story involves 45 minutes of narration by John Halligan, during which students are engaged with powerful lessons, including how forgiveness is healing and how self-advocacy, paired with advocacy for others, can prevent suicide. Students leave the program inspired to become upstanders rather than bystanders and to apologize when they have bullied or ridiculed others. Finally, they know that they are loved beyond belief by their families. Additional information is available at<https://www.ryanpatrickhalligan.org/>.

Mr. Halligan will travel to NAME OF SCHOOL to deliver **Ryan’s Story** to our \_\_\_\_ FILL IN NUMBER students and conduct a Parents Night presentation of **Ryan’s Story** on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FILL IN DATE.

**What do Educators, Parents and Students Say about Ryan’s Story?**
“*Honestly, your program is positively the best presentation for students that I have ever heard*.” -Teacher

“*Thank you for dedicating your life to saving our kids’ lives. I have no doubt you are preventing many kids from hurting themselves and others.*” -Parent

“***Ryan’s Story*** *100% changed my life. I was bullied … Now 14 years later having my own children I understand that pure deep love that we have for our children. Thank you for sharing Ryan with all of us. I will never forget.*” -Former Student, Now Parent

**Program Outcomes:**

All students, teachers, and administration will benefit from the assembly presentation of **Ryan’s Story**. All parents will be strongly encouraged to attend the Parents’ Night presentation.

Anticipated outcomes include:

1. Increased awareness of bullying and its negative impacts,

2. Positive Behavior Change among students toward more respectful, compassionate, empathetic, and inclusive interactions,

3. Upstanding rather than by standing: Students will increasingly upstand rather than by stand, challenging negative social behavior toward others,

4. Reinforcement that NAME OF SCHOOL administration will not tolerate behavior that disrespects the inherent dignity and self-worth of another student; reinforcement that respectful behavior is expected and required,

5. Decreased incidents of negative and disrespectful social interactions and increased reporting of these incidents,

6. Parental engagement: Increased involvement and understanding of parents about NAME OF SCHOOL’s expectations that each child is treated with absolute dignity as a child of God,

7. Enhanced school environment towards the ideal of a Christian environment, and

8. Decreased incidence of bullying-induced social and mental health issues.

**Project Budget:**

The grant funding of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be utilized as follows:

- Speaker fee for **Ryan’s Story** Student and Faculty Assembly (inclusive of all travel expenses): $\_\_\_\_\_\_

- Speaker fee for Parents’ Night (inclusive of all travel expenses): $\_\_\_\_\_\_

 - Printing of Pre- and Post- Assembly and Parents’ Night Materials: In-kind; provided by NAME OF SCHOOL

Total: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The **Ryan's Story** student assembly and the Parents’ Night program will significantly impact our students' mental health and well-being. We sincerely thank you for considering our grant request. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at INSERT PHONE NUMBER or INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NAME

Principal

Enclosures:
About John Halligan
IRS Determination Letter

[1] Basile KC, Clayton HB, DeGue S, et al. Interpersonal Violence Victimization Among High School Students - Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2019. MMWR Suppl. 2020;69(1):28–37. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.su6901a4

[2] Raymond A, Grant S, Tawk R. School Bullying and Health Risk Behavior Outcomes among Adolescents in Florida. Fla Public Health Rev. 2023;20:2. Epub 2023 Feb 7. PMID: 36877508; PMCID: PMC9979265.