



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ONLY JOKING? THERE'S NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT THREATS AT SCHOOL**

Miami, FL – ARISE Foundation, has created a book that is available for schools all across the nation titled *Only Joking*. The book is targeted towards youth and emphasizes the importance of not dismissing threats and comment made by their peers as “only joking.”

*Only Joking* addresses the fears and concerns adolescents may experience as a result of school shootings or similar incidents that may have occurred at other schools as well as in their own. The book also goes into detail on how to deal with a peer that is exhibiting signs of aggression and violence. The last section of the book includes interactive activities for the youth that could be conducted by teachers or any other staff members at a school.

“What if I tell someone and it turns out that Stan really is just kidding? That will mean I’m ratting on him for no reason. But, what if he is serious about ‘making them pay’ and I keep quiet? What could happen then?” This hypothetical situation is an excerpt from *Only Joking*.

The Youth Crime Watch of America, which is an organization with programs in 42 states and 11 countries throughout the world, is now using *Only Joking* in their programs. Through their programs, they have demonstrated that young people can make the difference in keeping their schools and communities safe from crime, drugs, and violence. This is the goal at Arise Life-Skills and Training.

Since 1986, ARISE has trained over 4,000 life-skills instructors nationwide who have gone on to teach more than 3,000,000 (three million) hours of award-winning, statistically proven curricula to over 500,000 at-risk youth nationwide who now have a better chance of reaching their full potential and becoming law-abiding citizens, thus making our society a safer place. In an average week, ARISE-trained instructors educate approximately 5,000 incarcerated young men and women, some of whom have made headlines with crimes like murder, rape and drug dealing.

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ARISE and its co-founders, Edmund F. and Susan Benson, are proud of their hard-won ability to successfully work with disadvantaged and high-risk youth in a single classroom, an entire school system or a statewide juvenile justice system. ARISE is a not for profit Foundation.

Below is a list of all the juvenile detention centers where ARISE curricula are being implemented:

<b>FACILITIES</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Broward Detention Center	Broward
Dade Intensive Supervision	Dade
Dade Marine Institute - North	Dade
Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center	Dade
Everglades Youth Development Center	Dade
Florida City Youth Center	Dade
Florida Institute for Girls	Palm Beach
JSP - West Palm	Palm Beach
Miami Dade Boot Camp	Dade
Sago Palm Academy	Palm Beach
Southern Glades Youth Camp	Dade

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