



CORRINE SINCLAIR

is a 10th grader at Cleveland Heights High School. She loves poetry and dreams of being a poet someday. She enjoys sports and is on the bowling and lacrosse team at school. Corrine also enjoys spending time with her twin sister Colleen.

Every year one in every seven victims of bullying commits suicide. Knowing this, I started to worry when I found out that my little brother Nick* was being cyber-bullied. Someone hacked into his Facebook, a social networking site and then proceeded to post cruel things about him. “ I like wearing girl’s clothes” and “I’m coming out of the closet” appeared as other kids started commenting things such as “faggot” on the post. I could see how upset he was getting. Nick’s eyes were on fire with tears trying so hard not to burst out. Even after deleting the account, I know that this torment was not yet over. I knew he would have to go to school the next day and face the very same heartless kids.

I was angry and frustrated. I wanted to get to the bottom of this, to find out who this mystery hacker really was. I wanted to tell him that it is against the law to do this. I wanted whoever it was to be severely punished and realize that there are consequences to stealing someone else’s identity. Bullying has led to too many children committing suicide and other harmful acts. I think cyber bullying is just a mixture of ignorance and the desire for bullies to feel better about themselves by belittling others.

A survey in 2005 taken by the National Children’s Home showed that 75% of cyber bullying victims knew their bully. Sadly, they also show that 28% of cyber bullying victims did not tell anyone about the harassment they were put through. I wanted to change these statistics. So, with the help of the fellow Students Against Destructive Decisions members, we started a blue ribbon week. Small blue ribbons were passed out and all the students were given the option to wear them. By wearing this blue ribbon it makes a statement against harassment and bullying. We can prevent not only cyber bullying but all types of bullying by supporting the victims and letting people know that we will no longer allow bullies to torment people on a day to day basis.

**Name has been changed*