

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

RICK PHILLIPS, M.S. Ed. **Executive Director**

Rick Phillips is the Executive Director and founder of Community Matters (CM), a California based nonprofit organization whose mission is to *engage, equip, and empower young people to be contributors and peacemakers in their schools and communities*. He has been interviewed on *The Today Show* and *CNN Headline News* as an expert on violence prevention and empowering youth. Rick is the lead author of *Safe School Ambassadors: Harnessing Student Power to Stop Bullying and Violence* (Jossey-Bass/Wiley, 2008).

Rick is the creator and co-developer of Safe School Ambassadors®, a youth-centered, violence prevention program that has been implemented in more than 650 hundred schools across the United States and in Canada. A nationally-recognized educator, speaker, facilitator, and trainer who brings years of expertise and practical experience to schools and communities across the country, Rick has been a keynote speaker and workshop presenter at more than 300 national and state conferences, including those for the Search Institute, the National School Boards Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the National Middle School Association. Rick has spoken on topics including; “Strengthening Adult-Youth Partnerships for Improving School Climate,” “Breaking the Code of Silence,” and “Building Safer Schools from the Inside-Out.”

Rick earned his Master’s of Science Degree in education from the University of Southern California where he was a recipient of a United States Office of Education Fellowship. His background includes serving as a principal and teacher at elementary, middle, and high schools, a school district and county office of education administrator, and a Regional Director at the Healthy Kids Center for the California Department of Education. Rick is a father, grandfather and a champion of all children and youth.

CHRIS PACK, BSE **Program Director**

Chris Pack is the co-developer of Safe School Ambassadors and co-author of the upcoming book, *Safe School Ambassadors: Harnessing Student Power to Stop Bullying and Violence*. He has served as Program Director at Community Matters since 1995. Mr. Pack holds a Bachelors' of Science in Engineering from Princeton University, and draws upon more than 20 years of training and facilitation experience. Chris manages all aspects of the design and development of the Safe School Ambassadors program, including materials, training content, and methods. He functions as the senior trainer, and oversees the training of all new trainers. He also manages the post-training program support provided to sites to ensure successful program implementation and oversees the evaluation process.