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**News Release | For Immediate Release**

**Be a Game Changer and Help Los Angeles Win Up to Five \$25,000 Grants**

*Local Organizations Need Your Votes*

**Los Angeles, CA. (April 8, 2013)** – Los Angeles, CA answered the call from State Farm® to submit causes that would make a positive impact in their neighborhood. Now Break the Cycle, Drew League Foundation (2 causes), SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A., and Together We Rise need your “assist” by voting them to the top and bringing money to Los Angeles. From April 4 through April 22, anyone who has the free State Farm Neighborhood Assist™ Facebook application can vote for these local organizations to help bring up to five \$25,000 grants to Los Angeles.

3,000 submissions were received through State Farm Neighborhood Assist, a youth-led philanthropic program that empowers communities to identify issues in their neighborhood. At least one cause was received from every eligible state, district and province in the United States and Canada. Then, the State Farm Youth Advisory Board, a diverse group of 30 students who are passionate about social responsibility, reviewed the cause submissions and selected the 200 finalists based on criteria they created.

Once the Youth Advisory Board selected the top 200, the program connected each cause with a local nonprofit that can help solve the problem. Forty-three states and Canadian provinces have causes in the top 200.

These local Los Angeles organizations have until April 22 to rally votes, with anyone voting allowed up to 10 votes per day. On April 29, the top 40 vote-receiving causes will be announced on the Facebook app and a \$25,000 grant will be awarded to the affiliated nonprofits.

The beauty of State Farm Neighborhood Assist is that it places decision-making power directly in the hands of the public,” said State Farm California Youth Advisory Board Member Brianna Pang. “We hope the 2013 program is able to increase last year’s widespread positive impact on U.S. and Canadian communities.”

For a complete list of the top 200 causes or to vote for a Los Angeles cause, use the links below:

[Break the Cycle](#)

[Drew League Foundation \(1\)](#)

[Drew League Foundation \(2\)](#)

[SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.](#)

[Together We Rise](#)

**Description of Los Angeles Organizations**

With a State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant, **Break the Cycle** intends to provide 50 area-schools, youth groups and organizations with the tools and resources needed to respond effectively to teen dating violence issues. From prevention education to peer advocacy, Break the Cycle will encourage future generations to build lives free from domestic and dating abuse.

**Contact:** Quincy O’Neal – [goneal@breakthecycle.org](mailto:goneal@breakthecycle.org)

With a State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant, the **Drew League Foundation (1)** intends to provide tutoring, books, school supplies, and in some cases other interactive resources such as the Kindle, Nook, and other learning material to make a gigantic effort to stem the rising tide of illiteracy, and the critical book shortage.

**Contact:** Michael McCaa - [mzm37@aol.com](mailto:mzm37@aol.com)

With a State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant, the **Drew League Foundation (2)** intends to eradicate, or significantly reduce, gang violence in the community. The organization would implement gang intervention programs, youth gang diversion workshops, and establish a formal gang outreach unit with the sole responsibility of engaging, meeting, and penetrating the complex gang sub-culture present in the community.

**Contact:** Michael McCaa - [mzm37@aol.com](mailto:mzm37@aol.com)

With a State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant, **SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.** intends to expand a pilot education and recycling program for unusable child safety seats in communities across Los Angeles County. The organization would also work with organizations that provide free or low-cost new safety seats to help low-income families find safe alternatives and avoid old, risky seats.

**Contact:** Danny Luna - [dluna2@memorialcare.org](mailto:dluna2@memorialcare.org)

With a State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant, **Together We Rise** intends to focus on providing youth in foster care with duffel bags and suitcases in order to prevent them from traveling to and from home with only trash bags to carry their belongings. Grant funds would be used to buy duffel bags, suitcases, teddy bears, hygiene kits, and other items. The organization wants to provide over 1,000 kids in foster care with our suitcases.

**Contact:** Danny Mendoza - [danny@togetherwerise.org](mailto:danny@togetherwerise.org)

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#### **About the Youth Advisory Board**

The Youth Advisory Board is comprised of 30 students, ages 17-20, from across the United States and Canada who serve a two-year term. Their directive is to implement a \$5 million-a-year signature service-learning initiative to address issues important to youth and communities. The Board is completely autonomous and youth-driven, and funds projects focused on issues selected by the board that impact youth. It consists of a diverse group of full-time students at high schools and universities. Each member commits about 15 hours a month to the Board and participates in three face-to-face meetings per calendar year. The Board will fund the 40 grants awarded through the State Farm Neighborhood Assist program with a portion of its \$5 million funding in 2013. For more information on the Youth Advisory Board, visit [www.statefarmyab.com](http://www.statefarmyab.com).

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