

**PRESS RELEASE FROM  
LEGISLATOR SARAH ANKER**

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## **Taking a Stand Against Bullying**

### *Legislator Anker Joins Annual Walkathon*



*Legislator Anker (right-center) joins NYFAB Founder and President Robin Merlo (left-center), Philip Hirst, Bradley Hirst and parents Brad and Fran Hirst at the Walkathon.*

**Mount Sinai NY, June 2013** – On Saturday, June 8, Legislator Sarah Anker joined community members at the New York Families Against Bullying (NYFAB) Second Annual Anti-Bullying Walkathon held at North Shore Heritage Park in Mount Sinai.

During the event, Philip Hirst, a third grader at Mount Sinai Elementary School, was awarded with the “Kindness” award for his support of his little brother Bradley, who is currently undergoing cancer treatment. As a sign of his support, Philip recently shaved his head and also launched a “Character Band-Aid Drive” for the Children’s Hospital at Stony Brook University.

Founded in February 2012 by concerned Mount Sinai mothers, NYFAB supports youth against the social pressures that they may face in their adolescent years.

“I am all too familiar with bullying,” shared Legislator Anker. “The most important thing you can do for yourself and for others who are being bullied is to say something. You must speak up and take the power away from the bully.”

Proceeds from the walkathon are used for educational programs demonstrating how students can defend themselves, and others, against bullying behaviors.

For more information on New York Families Against Bullying, please visit [www.nyfab1.com](http://www.nyfab1.com). To donate to Philip Hirst’s “Character’ Band-Aid Drive” please contact our office at (631) 854-1600.