

About the Chief Executive Officer - Diana Curtin, MNA



Diana Curtin is the Chief Executive Officer of Community Matters, a successful nonprofit organization that has been dedicated to empowering and equipping students and adults to create schools that are safe, welcoming and inclusive for 20 years. Community Matters is recognized as an innovative and thought-leading organization committed to improving the social-emotional climate of our nation's schools and communities.

Diana has expertise in organizational management, youth and program development, marketing and community relations. Under Diana's eight year tenure as the Executive Director of a large teen center, the organization became known for its strong collaboration with schools, its innovative and restorative programs and its impact on youth empowerment. She is a graduate of Leadership Santa Rosa and currently holds a position on the Policy Team for the Partnership for Violence Prevention for the City of Santa Rosa. Diana has a Master's Degree in Nonprofit Administration, has served on multiple boards and has been recognized with numerous awards for her work in the community and with youth. Diana is a wife, mother and active community member.

About the Founder – Rick Phillips, M.S. Ed.



Rick Phillips, M.S., Ed., is the former Executive Director and founder of Community Matters. The lead author of *Safe School Ambassadors: Harnessing Student Power to Stop Bullying and Violence*, published by Jossey-Bass/Wiley (April, 2008), Rick has been interviewed on *The Today Show*, CNN, and many print, radio, and regional/national interview shows as an expert on violence prevention and empowering youth. Rick is also the author of *Ten Years after Columbine: School Violence-Prevention Report Card*

As the creator and co-developer of Safe School Ambassadors®, a youth-centered, violence prevention program that has been implemented in close to 2,000 schools across the United States and Canada, Rick has become a nationally-recognized educator, speaker, facilitator, and trainer who brings years of expertise and practical experience to schools and communities across the continent and abroad. Rick has been a keynote speaker and workshop presenter at more than 500 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; "Empowering Youth to Stop Bullying and Violence," "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. He has been 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 champion of children and youth.