

CONGREGATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS


Rita Blitt (left) and Debbie Kirchoff, executive director of the Stop Violence Coalition, accepted the Community Action Network Award for "Kindness Is Contagious . . . Catch It!" recently in New York.

'Kindness' program 'catches' recognition

"Kindness is Contagious . . . Catch it!" an innovative program teaching school-age children respect, compassion and kindness, a project of the Stop Violence Coalition of Kansas, was recognized this month by the national Community Action Network at its sixth Annual Media & Corporate Awards Competition in New York.

The program was founded by Barbara Unell. The phrase "Kindness is Contagious . . . Catch it!" was coined by Rita Blitt.

Currently, the Kindness is Contagious program is active in more than 200 schools in the metropolitan Kansas City area and in schools in 28 other states.

"I am delighted that 'Kindness is

Contagious . . . Catch it!' is being recognized as a solution to one of today's critical problems: violence of all kinds — verbal, physical and emotional — between children and adult-to-child," said Debbie Kirchoff, executive director of the Stop Violence Coalition.

Community Action Network is a national idea clearinghouse which collects and disseminates information on practical solutions to social problems. It was founded by advertising industry leaders to create a databank of published and aired solutions that have proven effective in helping people combat the challenges they encounter in their daily lives.