

Where do your nickels go?



Marin Nonprofit Provides Free Programs to Combat Social Isolation and Make Schools More Welcoming for Everyone

On February 14, more than a million students all over the country will celebrate **National No One Eats Alone®** Day, a lunchtime school program created by Marin County nonprofit Beyond Differences. The program encourages students to not only sit with classmates they don't know and get to know them, but also to spot others who might feel left out and include them. No One Eats Alone® includes a pledge by students to end social isolation and make their school more inclusive for everyone all year long.

No One Eats Alone® was launched in 2012 in a handful of schools in Northern California. The response was overwhelming and the program has expanded to more than 2,500 schools in all 50 states.

"No One Eats Alone® Day touched a nerve in middle schools and became a fast-growing movement, because, as we all realize, social isolation is a public health problem for millions of children and their families," said Laura Talmus, the co-founder and executive director.

Founded in 2010, Beyond Differences is the only student-led nonprofit organization and social justice movement dedicated to ending social isolation. The nonprofit was created to honor the life of Lili Rachel Smith, a high school freshman who passed away in her sleep from medical complications from Apert Syndrome, a cranial-facial anomaly, who experienced social isolation in middle school and its effects. The organization created three positive prevention initiatives: Know Your Classmates™, No One Eats Alone® and Be Kind Online™ with curriculum and activities. Beyond Differences celebrates its 10-year anniversary this year with more than 6,500 schools nationwide using its materials, which are provided free of charge.

For more information,
visit beyonddifferences.org.

**BEYOND
DIFFERENCES™**
Inspiring Youth to End Social Isolation

**NO
ONE
EATS ALONE®**

United
Healthy Choices. Honest Value.