



# NEWS RELEASE

---

Waterford School District, 1150 Scott Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328

## **Pierce Middle School Friends of Rachel Club Named 2008 Youth Group of the Year**

**February 7, 2008, Waterford, Mich.** – Pierce Middle School's Friends of Rachel Club (F.O.R.) was awarded the 2008 Youth Group of the Year by the Waterford Coalition for Youth. Approximately 32 Pierce Middle School students belong to this club which was developed after the District hosted a week-long conference for all middle and high school students called Rachel's Challenge. They were recognized for their self-directed leadership and their commitment to promoting a safe, kind, and welcoming environment for all students.

The conference known as Rachel's Challenge was created as a result of the tragic events at Columbine High School. The first student killed that day was Rachel Scott. The diaries she left behind, in addition to the countless stories of her positive life choices, inspired a national education program, designed to equip and empower students to embrace new values of kindness and compassion within their schools and their communities.

The F.O.R. Club was formed at each middle and high school as a result of this conference and is an all-inclusive club. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate. The Club meets regularly and discusses new ideas and ways to help other students feel accepted and welcomed. In addition, new and creative ways in which to carry out kindness into the community is also a main topic of discussion. Some of the initiatives underway are: Welcoming Committee, Theme of the Week, Commercial Committee, and Favor for a Neighbor. F.O.R. meets every Monday morning with their designated committees and throughout the week on their own time.

###