



# Ogallala Public Schools

Administration Offices  
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April 10, 2002

Dear Colleague,

Susie Vanderlip presented "Legacy Of Hope" assemblies for our middle school and high school plus an evening performance for our community and parents here in Ogallala, Nebraska on March 27, 2002.

We chose Susie's program for our community as her preview information appeared to touch on all the issues that our youth are confronting in every day life, Susie appeared to have the ability to be on the students level so it just seemed like a perfect match. Our goal was to bring something to our students that would build them up and give them hope in the midst of taking a look at their emotions and the behaviors that cause problems in their life.

We had an overwhelming response from our students and also the community. Since the assemblies, I have had personal thank-you's and phone calls from parents. Many are asking how they might bring Susie back to our community so that even more people could have the opportunity to hear her.

The students, parents, and staff were all touched by Susie's story. All of us have had losses in our life but she is an inspiration to all of us as we realize that when things happen there is a positive way to handle our emotions without going to drugs and alcohol. Comments from the students indicated that many have never been taught to share their thoughts and feelings so they are carrying a lot of extra baggage. Further more, many were not aware of the life implications drugs and alcohol can have on our lives. Currently I am using the follow up survey information to start peer groups within our school that will help to address the students needs.

Susie Vanderlip will make a difference in the lives of all that hear her. She is an inspiration, plus 70minutes of education, from someone who really cares about the lives of our youth. Susie sets the stage and opens the door to many avenues of follow up for the students. If you are looking for a wise investment of you time and money, Susie is an excellent choice.

*Mary Cumming MS LMHP*  
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Ogallala High School Counselor