

Mayor Bradley and students of Mace Kingsley Preparatory Academy

## Mayor Bradley Commends Children's Good Work

Mayor Tom Bradley was confronted with an unusual delegation when Melissa Wattman, 12, and her junior high school friends crowded around his City Hall desk to get his signature on their anti-drug pledge.

Mayor Bradley's normally dignified office was temporarily turned into a colorful and noisy "schoolroom" as the children proudly unrolled, over the entire width of Mayor Bradley's desk, a scrolled 400-signature anti-drug pledge, the result of two months of campaigning the children did in their Silver Lake school district.

Mayor Bradley beamed as he posed delightedly with the children and accepted their presentation of a beautiful leather-bound silver-edged book called "The Way To Happiness," written by highly acclaimed author L. Ron Hubbard, which, Lucas Wright, 11, said "helped us to do the campaign, especially the part of 'Set a Good Example'."

Melissa said that she and her friends, including Shannon Roberts, 11, daughter of Michael Roberts of the Oscar-winning movie "Rainman" and former star of Barretta, and Jessica Hochman, 13, daughter of Jeff Pomerantz, award-winning

actor and founder of the "Hollywood says No to Drugs" Honor Roll campaign, all students of the Mace-Kingsley Preparatory academy school, started to take action after teachers stopped students from going to the local playground because gang violence and drug dealing had made the park unsafe.

They decided to do something about it, and do something they did.

They organized kindergarten to grade 12 students to go to the park with placards and picket signs. The smaller ones carried helium balloons with anti-drug messages. The children then had every-one they met sign a pledge not to take drugs. 200 people signed on the spot.

One pregnant woman was so moved by the children's efforts, that she came to them, admitting she had a drug problem she now wanted to handle, and requested their help and direction.

Melissa said that many school out-doors and sports activities at the park have now been resumed because it has become so much safer.

Melissa Wattman, Heather Szekely, Jessica Hochman, Amy Dineen, Shannon Roberts, Adam Harrison and Lucas Wright, seven very grown-up and responsible young people, selected Mayor Bradley, because, as Shannon Roberts said: "It will give other people the idea that if the mayor is signing something, it will be good. He's a leader, and he's a good one too."

Heather Szekely said "I want drugs off school grounds because kids go to school to get an education and drugs do not help."

Adam Harrison, 10, said: "I would like to see drug free schools."

One of the teachers, Samantha Tomlinson, said that the children had done this on their own initiative. She said that the school endorsed L. Ron Hubbard's "The Way To Happiness" booklet because they found it "promotes good personal values and gives very sound advice on how to handle gangs or drugs or violence-and in this day and age, this can really make a difference."

The children feel that they can make a difference, no matter their age. As Jessica Hochman put it: "My school could go to other schools and give them the idea that to get to the top, you DON'T need to take drugs!"



WASHINGTON C.H., OH RECORD-HERALD D 6.991

CUN 30 1983



BATTLING GRANDMAS — Barbara Ayash and Mary Ferguson, a pair of California grandmothers, have formed the Concerned Businessmen's Association of America which has launched a new attack in the war on drugs.

## Grandmas wage war on drugs in California

Pushers selling killer drugs like crack to school children are under the guns of two California grandmothers who voluntarily gave up business careers to wage war on criminal elements. Their bullets are books, their cannon — MORALS, their battle cry — SET A GOOD EXAMPLE.

A feisty 57-year-old grandmother of eight, Barbara Ayash is the Founder of Concernad Businessmen's Association of America (CBAA). Her partner in campaign battle planning is CBAA Executive Director Mary Ferguson.47, a mother of two, grandmother of two—all boys.

The artillary being fired by this unusual command team are copies of a common sense moral code booklet entitled 'The Way To Happiness'

'The Way To Happiness book,' Ferguson says, "forwards time honored values such as "honesty and trust, honor and help of parents, love and help of children, not using harmful drugs, being competent, being industrious, fulfilling obligations, etc." The book contains practical know-how for dealing with many areas of life."

While officials debate police tactics on how to eliminate drug pushers these two grandmothers have been zeroing in on a more basic issue — drugs on school grounds.

They have managed to enlist the support of grassroots troops numbering in the millions, many of them children. Over 20,000,000 copies of 'The Way To Happiness' have been distributed hand to hand.

Student battallions of more than three thousand schools from all states hoping to win one of three \$5,000 first-place prizes awarded in a national contest to get drugs off school grounds are using the book as a guideline for doing projects to influence their own peers in a positive way — away from drugs

According to Ayash, the Set a Good Example Contest idea developed from war-room strategy after results of a student survey done by CB. A showed they would listen to their peers before they would listen to authority. "It seemed the most workable way to block the enemy assault was to utilize youth right on the front lines of our schools to divert their own friends aw from harmful drugs and into constructive moral activity," says Ayash.

Ammunition in the form of the books and other educational materials for the contest comes from defense funds provided by CBAA members, business and professional sponsors. With the help of other organizations such as Pharmacists Against Drug Abuse, Narconon, and the Entertainment Industry Council, etc. The number of students and schools responding to the contest has more than doubled in just two years.

Members of CBAA are concerned about the future workforce and the fact that drug and alcohol abuse reduce the desire to learn and inhibit the development of employable skills.

Ayash says the concept behind the contest is that a child experiencing an inability to deal with stress, cope with daily problems related to school, relationships, life, or just being happy — have a tendency to fall prey to drug use as an easy solution.

Common sense morals, she insists, are the solution to winning more than just the war on drugs. When people know the difference between right and wrong conduct and act from that understanding they have the strength to hold their ground when it comes to making crucial decisions between survival and non-survival behavior. "All you have to do is look around to see promiscurty leads to AIDS and other venerial diseases not to mention divorce and family break up. Murd violence, larceny, fraud, theft, c.i sooner or later lead to jail.'

"This war will be won," says Ferguson. "It will be won in the trenches of our neighborhoods accommunities. When I drive the days I see too many bars or a many windows. People feel it safe to walk after dusk even to corner grocery store."

"We will win this war because of continue to grow in numbers," sa Ayash. The only real enemy we had to overcome is a lack of comm sense. Drug dealers have no mark with people armed with comm sense morals."

To contact either of the courageous grandmothers, to enlin their army of volunteer commandos or to obtain copies of "T Way To Happiness" hooks, to give those you care abou: - Call CBAA 1-800-782-6767.