

VALLO
TRANSPORTATION LTD.



For Immediate Release

VALLO TRANSPORTATION HEIGHTENS ANTI-BULLYING AWARENESS AS BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON APPROACHES

Company Promotes Comprehensive Initiative for Parents, Students and Employees

Council Member Mark Weprin Applauds their Efforts

Whitestone, NY – September 3, 2013 – Vallo Transportation, an independent school bus company located in Whitestone, has taken extra measures to create awareness of their new ***No Bullying Zone*** initiative to emphasize that the company takes bullying seriously and wants to be part of the solution to stop this negative behavior. This campaign helps to reinforce the importance of how all members of the community can work together and help create a positive experience for students during this coming school year. “As a new school year kicks off, I applaud Vallo Transportation for focusing its efforts on combating bullying in our schools,” **Council Member Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens)**.

A major component of this important and timely initiative is employee training. All Vallo Transportation employees will participate in an extensive training session that outlines how to recognize bullying behavior, how to properly intervene, and how to create a supportive school bus climate.

“As a bus company that interacts daily with the community and students, we have taken steps to elevate anti-bullying awareness and promote a bully-free zone on our buses. It’s important that students feel safe when traveling with us, and this campaign ensures our drivers are equipped with extensive knowledge on recognizing bullying and how to properly report it and intervene when necessary,” stated **Linda DeSabato, President, Vallo Transportation Ltd.**

As part of this initiative, parents were provided with anti-bullying information including how to recognize the warning signs, the effects of bullying and where to go for help. Students were also asked to make a pledge to respect each other, to refrain from bullying behavior and speak up to help a classmate if he or she is being bullied.

“Safety is the cornerstone of our operation, so we felt it was important to share essential bullying information with the families we serve on this trending topic. Bookmarks featuring anti-bullying information will be distributed to students, and parents received helpful tips and resources. By elevating awareness of this topic and educating parents, students and our employees, our hope is that together we can all become part of the solution and help stop this negative behavior,” added **Ms. DeSabato**.

More information about Vallo Transportation’s anti-bullying initiative and resources can be found on their website at www.ValloTransportation.com.

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About Vallo Transportation Ltd.

Vallo Transportation provides school-bus service for hundreds of children in Queens and Manhattan, N.Y. The company, which specializes in service to the Bronx High School of Science, also provides charter service for field trips, community groups, high school sports and special events. Vallo has an outstanding safety record, on-time performance of nearly 98 percent, superior maintenance and training programs and history of community involvement. This outstanding reputation earned Vallo the New York State Bus Contractors Association's Contractor of the Year Award in 2010. Vallo traces its origins back more than 50 years to the hard work and dedication of Eddie and Tony Vallone, the founders of Parkway Bus Service, which provided transportation services to New York City school children. Parkway merged with two other companies, Columbia Bus Service and Syken Coach Services, to form Pioneer Bus Corporation in 1954. Pioneer grew to provide commuter bus services, in addition to its core school bus service. By the 1970s, Pioneer was one of the largest privately held bus companies in New York. Ed Vallone's children, Linda, Phil, and Ed junior, continue the tradition of excellent service for a new generation of passengers. More information about Vallo Transportation Ltd. and its services is available at www.vallotransportation.com or by calling (718) 961-7600.