



# Helping America's Youth Initiative

HOSA is pleased to be a partner in President Bush's initiative called Helping America's Youth (HAY) with First Lady Laura Bush as the spokesperson for the Administration. Helping America's Youth is a nationwide effort to raise awareness about the challenges facing our youth, particularly at-risk boys, and to motivate caring adults to connect with youth in three key areas: family, school, and community.

HOSA members, serving as volunteers at a recent regional meeting in Dallas, Texas, are pictured with First Lady Laura Bush—Nicholas Carmona, Caleb Smart, Jessica Faber, Damaris Sifuentes, Shawna Taylor and Matt Phillips.

On February 7th, Dr. Jim Koeninger, Executive Director, and Karen Koeninger, Associate Director, attended a reception at the White House hosted by President Bush and The First Lady honoring the 3rd Anniversary of the Helping America's Youth Initiative. The purpose of the reception was to sign an Executive Order to institutionalize the Youth initiative. There were eight members of the Cabinet in attendance when the Executive Order was signed by President Bush in the East Room at the White House. It was a great honor for HOSA to be represented at the reception and signing. More information regarding Helping America's Youth can be found at [www.helpingamericasyouth.gov](http://www.helpingamericasyouth.gov).

*“Caring adults connecting with youth is vital in the lives of our nation’s young people, particularly at-risk boys, in helping them become healthy and successful adults.”*

*-Mrs. Laura Bush*

*When adults offer young people a chance, their love and support can show struggling youth the hope that lies beyond their future, and sometimes that hope makes all the difference.*

*-Mrs. Laura Bush*

