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# News Release

## Local Mother and Son Start Youth Rights Chapter Group plans to defend the rights of students

**Austin, Tex. – April 23, 2010:** Austin is now home to the newest chapter of the National Youth Rights Association thanks to the efforts of local high school student, Dalton Scott and his mother Shanda Scott. Their chapter, NYRA-Austin: Peeps 4 Change intends to work on ensuring students get fair treatment and a free and appropriate public education in Williamson County.

The Scotts became interested in youth rights due to an ongoing battle with the Round Rock Independent School District to get Dalton the services he needs and have his rights respected in school.

“Over the last few years my son has been harassed, threatened, and driven out of school. He wants to learn but the school refuses to teach him. We hope that this chapter can shine some light onto the abuse and neglect that is occurring in our schools. Once young people and families start seeing a glimmer of hope they will come out and speak out alongside us,” said Shanda Scott.

“I want to go back to my school and graduate, go to college and possibly coach high school baseball, work with youth in civil rights or perhaps become a pastor, but my school required me to withdraw and enroll in a GED program. They have denied me the education I need and deserve,” said chapter president Dalton Scott, “Our chapter will fight not only for my rights, but for the rights of all students in the area who have been victimized by the school system.”

Dalton Scott, age 17, attended Westwood High School, is an avid baseball fan, talented pitcher, and active in his church. He has been a long standing example of the positive voice of the nation’s youth.

“NYRA is very excited to welcome our newest addition to our growing network of youth rights advocates around the country. Shanda and Dalton will do a great job with bringing youth rights to the people of Williamson County and Austin,” said Alex Koroknay-Palicz, the Executive Director of the National Youth Rights Association.

NYRA-Austin participated in National Youth Rights Day on April 14, organized outreach events over the weekend and has several campaigns and rallies planned for the near future.

**About NYRA:**

The National Youth Rights Association is a national, youth-led organization whose mission is to promote awareness of the legal and civil rights of young people in the United States. NYRA is based in Washington, DC and was founded in 1998. NYRA has nearly 10,000 members and has been featured on CNN, Fox News, PBS, and in the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Boston Globe, LA Times, Chicago Tribune, Parade and numerous other publications.

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