



[Back](#) [Home](#)

## Rachel's Legacy picks up from Rachel's Challenge

By Rich Harbert

GateHouse News Service

Posted Jan 13, 2010 @ 08:00 AM

PLYMOUTH — Rachel Scott's hopes for a worldwide chain reaction of compassion spread to local eighth-graders already indoctrinated in the club of caring, meanwhile, got refresher course in forgiveness as Columbine survivor to share his late sister's vision for a better world.

More than 2,000 high and middle school students attended the emotional Rachel's Challenge assemblies Monday night to share the experience with their parents.

"I've never walked into an assembly before where the kids were waiting silently for me to talk," Plymouth South said, referring to the Monday morning sessions at her school. "You could hear a pin drop."

Plymouth South High School and Plymouth South Middle School students attended sessions with Craig Scott and Plymouth Community Intermediate School students attended Tuesday sessions.

The Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative brought the program to town last April on the 10th anniversary of the Columbine shootings in Colorado. The program draws on the writings of Rachel Scott in trying to spread a message of peace and compassion.

Rachel Scott was the first student killed in the 1999 shootings. Her younger brother, Craig, also a student at Plymouth South, was murdered on either side.

He presented Rachel's Challenge to students in both high schools last year. The presentation challenged students to live while also appreciating the lives of others. Parents across town were treated to unexpected calls with "I Love My Child" students to let the most important people in their lives know just how special they really are.

Scott reprised the Rachel's Challenge program for this year's freshmen and eighth-graders. Older students participated in Rachel's Legacy.

Like Rachel's Challenge, Rachel's Legacy is based on Rachel Scott's extensive journal entries and explores her message.

Scott challenges students to respond to the needs of others, to appreciate people, to initiate caring and see to do something, don't hesitate," Scott said.

His most important challenge asked students to look within themselves as well as at those around them and to live.

He admitted to struggling with the need for vengeance after the shootings and said he only achieved emotional peace by forgiving. "Forgiving is like freeing a prisoner and then finding out the prisoner was you," Scott said.

Scott met Monday and Tuesday afternoon with selected students from both schools who are starting Friends of Rachel's Legacy. They delivered a combined message to parents and students at night.

Connors said students crammed around banners to sign up and accept Rachel's challenges at her school M in a line that snaked to the back of the auditorium to meet Craig Scott.

Connors credited the power of the message for drawing so many people out on a cold winter's night. "It's all said.

Copyright © 2010 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a [Creative Commons license](#), except where noted.