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For Immediate Release

### **Michigan Children's Book Author Wins The Mom's Choice Awards**

Dana Lehman writes children's books that teach life lessons. She is honored to be a silver recipient of The Mom's Choice Awards, an annual competition that recognizes family-friendly media and products. Her first book, *Adventures at Walnut Grove: A Lesson about Teasing* won the 2009 silver for values and life lessons. Her second book in the series, *I DOUBLE Dare You!* won the 2009 silver for developing social skills.

"I am proud to have my books included with all of The Mom's Choice Awards recipients. I feel that books are a wonderful opportunity to discuss social issues with children," she said.

Like many parents, she is concerned with the increase of violence in our schools and wrote the series in the hope that it will make children think twice before they decide to tease their peers.

"We live in a world where school shootings are occurring too frequently. There are numerous reasons that children are hurting and often killing their peers. Teasing and bullying are a few reasons," she said.

Her goal is to teach children that teasing and bullying is unacceptable and help children understand that we need to treat others the way we would like to be treated.

"If we could try to instill these values at a younger age, we may be able to discourage name-calling when children are older," she said. "Teasing occurs at all ages, but is more prevalent in middle school. We should start teaching children not to tease, and to treat others the way they want to be treated in preschool. Books are a successful way to provide this lesson to children."

Dana has spoken to many children about teasing and peer pressure at the Macomb Intermediate School District. She participates in a program called ASK. In the ASK process, teachers read her books to their students. Then the students write in their journal about their perceptions on what is happening to the characters in the book. Students develop questions based on their journals that they would like to ask Dana. Finally, using video conferencing technology, they connect Dana to the students who then get a chance to ask their questions.

#### **Adventures at Walnut Grove: A Lesson about Teasing**

*Adventures at Walnut Grove: A Lesson about Teasing* is a story about Sammy, a squirrel who is teased because he has eyes like a raccoon. Sammy knows that name-calling is not nice, but his friends have a valuable lesson to learn. The name-caller soon becomes the one being teased. This is a story about friends that learn to treat others the way they would like to be treated.

#### **I DOUBLE Dare You!**

In *I Double Dare You!* Sammy's cousins Silly and Sassy, come to Walnut Grove for a visit. Silly and Sassy are always getting into trouble. They play hide-n-seek, have frog races, and play dare or double dare. How does this lead to jumping off a bridge? The book reveals how everyone learns to take responsibility for his or her own actions. They also discover that it's not always wise to follow your friends.

#### **I Can Do It**

Sammy enjoys visiting new places, so he decides to take his friends to the enchanted forest, Whispering Willows. Along the way and through Paradise Pond, Bucky realizes that with practice and confidence, he can finally swim! In *I Can Do It* Young readers can join Sammy and his friends on a journey that will have them swimming for frogs, swinging through the forest, and building a tree house. Magical things happen in Whispering Willows ... if you believe in yourself! The third book encourages children to be confident, persistent, and determined, and work one step at a time toward achieving one's dreams and goals.

#### **ABOUT DANA LEHMAN and ILLUSTRATOR JUDY LEHMAN**

Dana Lehman resides in Allenton, Michigan with her husband and their two children. She has been a stay-at-home mom for ten years. Her children continuously inspire her to write new stories. She graduated from Macomb Community College with an Associates Degree. Dana was fortunate to have her mother-in-law, Judy Lehman, illustrate her books using watercolors. Judy graduated from Oakland University with a BA in elementary education. She is a retired elementary school teacher and has been an artist for 40 years. Judy donates her royalties to local charities. She lives in Hubbard Lake, Michigan with her husband.