

# 'The X Factor' star visits Bridge Teen Center

## STAFF REPORT

On Saturday, Aug. 4, Rachel Crow and DoSomething.org spoke up against bullying with students at The Bridge Teen Center in Orland Park.

The 2012 DoSomething.org Bully Project gives teens a chance to address the realities of bullying in their schools and identify ways to make a change through the first ever student-led nationwide bullying census.

The discussion was led by "The X Factor" contestant and Nickelodeon star Rachel Crow, alongside Houston Weatherly, a sophomore at Bremen High School and a student from The Bridge Teen Center. During the discussion, students quickly opened up about the realities of bullying within their

schools and ways to be proactive upon situations. According to DoSomething.org, "56 percent of students have personally felt some sort of bullying at school."

Crow spoke about her experience with being bullied and how it is a continual battle.

The event brought 15 students together who expressed the same comfort in having a place to hang out - free from bullying.

"The Bridge feels like a second home, here I don't have to worry about bullying," Weatherly said.

"You feel welcomed as soon as you walk into the door," said Amber Holup, a Tinley Park High School freshman.

After the one-hour event, students had an opportunity to meet and take photos

with Crow.

Crow finished fifth on the first season of "The X Factor," and quickly became a fan favorite and darling among "The X Factor" judges. The 14-year old released her self-titled EP on June 26 with Columbia Records, and also has a TV deal with Nickelodeon. She is currently featured on Big Time Rush's Summer Tour 2012 along with Cody Simpson. She has guest starred on the television shows "Fred: The Show," "Figure It Out," and "Big Time Rush."

The Bridge Teen Center is located at 15555 S. 71st Court, Orland Park.

For more information, call (708) 532-0500 or visit [www.thebridgeteencenter.org](http://www.thebridgeteencenter.org).



**"The X Factor" fifth-place finisher Rachel Crow (right) smiles for a photo with Tinley Park resident Katie Ritchey during Crow's visit Saturday, Aug. 4, to the Bridge Teen Center in Orland Park. PHOTO SUBMITTED**