



This Just In...

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Youth Speaks Up

Kathleen M. Dickinson

On Tuesday, March 28th the Goshen Coalition held a Town Hall Meeting at 2008 Hamilton as one of many coalitions nationwide to recognize the fight against underage drinking. "Underage drinking has moved out of the high schools and into our elementary schools. By the time adolescents reach the eighth grade, 44% have had at least one drink, and almost 20% report having been intoxicated. 29% of the nation's youth, ages 12 to 20, have used alcohol illegally." SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Dr. Alonso Jones, Nevada Partners; Marilyn LaMascus, Jewish Family Services; Reshard Wilson, Westcare; and Diane Pidsosny, Stand Tall

Don't Fall participated in the two hour interaction, while many others added insights from the audience. 10 youth from Nevada Partners after school program gave everyone their views of the impact of advertising, the use of alcohol, and their own personal losses due to people driving under the influence.

They also assessed the FACE Project video "This Place" a powerful movie that challenges viewers to recognize the many ways that our society allows and even encourages children to drink alcohol. Perhaps most importantly, it demonstrates the power of ordinary citizens to take meaningful action that will change the culture of

drinking in their communities."

The youth confirmed SAMHSA's report "that children and teens are less likely to abuse alcohol if parents are involved in their children's lives, make and enforce clear rules, and are positive role models."

One of the young people who had bought a t-shirt advertising Corona was told by his mother that he was advertising not just the product, but something about himself that he might not realize. One 16 year old girl lost schoolmates to someone who was driving under the influence. Many of the youth who had been exposed to a DARE program in 5th grade said they needed more phrases at their disposal besides "Just Say No".

"The compartmentalization of our culture has resulted in material wealth yet poverty of social and emotional opportunity. ...The relational landscape is changing—children have fewer emotional, social and cognitive interactions with fewer people. The impact of "modern" life on the developing child has not been fully realized yet."

Dr. Bruce Perry www.childtrauma.org

For further information on talking about alcohol and drugs with your family, visit these web sites:

- www.standtalldontfall.com
- www.abovetheinfluence.com
- www.stopalcoholabuse.gov
- toosmartostart.samhsa.gov
- www.family.samhsa.gov
- www.TheCoolspot.gov

Photo to the right: Belinda Thompson, Director of Goshen Community Development Coalition and youth from Nevada Partners 3/28/06.

Photo taken by Olga Mendoza



A discussion then ensued on the specifics of "peer pressure". Peer pressure is more than direct pressure from their friends. Peer pressure is influenced by advertising from the media (movies, television, magazines) on "what is cool".

The youth appreciated the Town Hall forum and having their opinions valued. They would like to get together on a regular basis to create posters, messages, and other ideas on encouraging youth to make healthy decisions. They are valued contributors to Goshen and our community.

Meet Our Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse State Incentive Grant Providers



UNLV ADAPTs

Kim Grande, one of our providers, has been very busy at UNLV. Through her ADAPT (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team), the Bureau of

Alcohol and Drug Abuse's State Incentive Grant via the Goshen Coalition has funded the "Challenging College Alcohol Abuse" Model Program (education through "social norms"). During this year's Alcohol Awareness Month, peer educators hosted National Alcohol Screening day at the UNLV Student Union on April 6th, 2006. Approximately 100 students participated in the screening program, as well as many more who just stopped by for information, and good conversation. The event was a huge success, and was featured on Channel 8.

Also during Alcohol Awareness month, ADAPT hosted many outreach events to raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol abuse, and to promote a Safe and Healthy Spring Break. One very successful event was "Acoustic Afternoon." This alcohol free event was an opportunity for students to come and show their talent by singing, dancing, and playing an instrument, in the beautiful Spring Sun on the UNLV outdoor amphitheatre. Good job Kim and team!

The Family Resource Center in Mesquite, Nevada

Shawn Hotch, the Executive Director of the Virgin Valley Family Services in Mesquite, Nevada is shown in the center of this photo. Shawn's center offers Positive Action, Positive Choices and you can see from the photo they have a Proud To Be Me program. On May 19, 2006 there will be a Town Hall Meeting in Mesquite. Please call 702-346-7277 for more information



Please reserve your seat at Sober Day USA at the Bellagio Hotel on May 1, 2006

The Brent Shapiro Foundation for Drug Awareness is cosponsoring with the Goshen Community Development Coalition and the BEST Coalition, SOBER DAY USA: An Annual Day of Awareness, on May 1, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Bellagio Hotel Monet Room.

The Brent Shapiro Foundation for Drug Awareness was established to increase awareness of alcoholism, to educate the public, and to bring this disease out of the shadows and into the light, by Los Angeles Robert L. Shapiro, who lost his son Brent to this disease only 6 months ago.

Reserve your seat by emailing Lindsey Abrahamson at labrahamson@chrismill.com or calling her at 310.553.3000 ext 3523. Attend and hear Brent's story; see the new documentary "What's Your Story?"; and hear from experts and Nevada dignitaries about this disease.

Happenings in the Community

There was a **BADA Advisory Board** meeting on March 15, 2006 at the Friendship Church of God and Christ 2249 W. Washington Avenue to discuss prevention issues and to hear reports/discussions on the draft BADA transition plan to the Mental Health and Developmental Services Division by Bruce Emery and Dr. Carlos Brandenburg. The BADA Advisory Board meetings are open to the public and all of you who are involved in prevention are encouraged to attend and ask questions. The next meeting is scheduled **for May 17th, 9:30 a.m. at the Friendship Church of God and Christ**. Please call Goshen at 880-4357 if you are planning to attend as refreshments will be provided.

Goshen Community Development Coalition is developing several projects involving youth and preventing them from entering the juvenile justice system. We will let you know the details as they become firm. For more information on youth in Nevada visit <http://www.co.clark.nv.us/jjs/geninfo/mainpage.htm> and <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/databook.jsp>.

The November 19th mural painting at McCall Elementary School led to an **April 22, 2006 continuation for National Youth Service Day** - this time Dr. Maria Chairez and Barbara Griswold organized a mural painting of the courtyard (outside but not in view from the street). The quotes listed below are the asset phrases Ms. Griswold chose and they are painted on the walls in a variety of colors. There are also smiley faces, numbers, mathematical signs (+, =, -, x, etc.) and the fifth graders created an entire wall in keeping with the school's Challenger theme - they painted the wall black, with cutouts of white stars, an orange sun, a white moon, and then red, white, and blue astronauts. There were 160 adults (teachers, parents, volunteers) and children at the event.

Greet each new day as an opportunity to meet new challenges.

The miracle of friendship usually begins with a simple smile.

Kindness is the only investment that never fails.

Success is contagious. Pass it on.

The first step in achieving, is believing.

Perseverance will accomplish all things. –American proverb

You can change the world.

Never say you can't, until you have tried.

Knowledge is power. –Francis Bacon

Clear your mind of can't. –Samuel Jackson

An open book opens a mind – and countless doors.

All hard work leads to profit.

A positive attitude helps bridge the gap between ability and aspiration.

There is no substitute for hard work.

There are never moments of failure, only moments of learning.

When in doubt tell the truth. –Mark Twain

You must do the thing you think you cannot do. –Eleanor Roosevelt

The more that you read,

The more things you will know.

The more that you learn,

The more places you'll go.

-Dr. Seuss



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Mission Statement: *To ensure the availability of the attainment of the dream for all of our community partners. It is understood that we shall all agree to actively strive to reduce and eliminate strife, malice, racism, poverty and deprivation within our communities and neighborhoods.*

**The Goshen Community Development Coalition believes in Bridging The Gap -
Global Concerns = Local Solutions**
Building Better Communities One Neighborhood At A Time



Safe at Home and Beyond. Asset #10 Safety



“Is there something that scares you at home, in your neighborhood, at the park, at school, or anyplace else you go? Has anything happened to make you feel worried or afraid? Tell your parents and ask for their help and advice. When you live in fear, you’re less likely to take healthy risks, try new things, and make positive contributions.” (Parents and teachers — please encourage a discussion in your family or your classroom regarding safety issues).

- ♥ “With your class or club, take a safety walk around your school. Identify places or things that make you feel unsafe. Come up with ideas for changing them so everyone feels safer, and present them to your principal.
- ♥ “Survey the students in your school to learn what they think about school safety. Where do they feel safe, and why? Where don’t they feel safe, and why? What specific things have happened to make them feel unsafe? What ideas do they have for making your school safer? Present the survey results and students’ ideas to your principal and/or your school board. Ask how you can help implement some of the ideas. **Promote unity and safety for all. Stop prejudice. Encourage Diversity.**
- ♥ “Start a Crime Clue Box at your school—a place where students can anonymously report crimes or other suspicious activities they witness personally. Notify your local law enforcement agency or crime prevention council about your Crime Clue Box. They can collect the clues on a regular basis and follow up on the information.
- ♥ “Work with your class, club, teachers, administration, and community to make your school safer for everyone. Examples: Hold a Safety Fair; start an anti-violence poster contest; have an anti-violence rally; ask for a uniformed police officer to be present at your school during school hours and events.
- ♥ “Encourage your parents and other adults to volunteer in the schools. Especially if you feel unsafe at school, this will give your parents firsthand knowledge of the reasons why. See Asset #6: Parent Involvement in Schooling.
- ♥ “Establish a peer mediation program so students can help each other resolve conflicts peacefully. See Asset #36: Peaceful Conflict Resolution.”*

***“What Teens Need to Succeed—Proven, Practical Ways To Shape Your Own Future” by Peter L. Benson, Ph.D., Judy Galbraith, M.A. and Pamela Espeland— from the Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets**