



This Just In...

Issue 2

August 2006

What About The Children?

Editor's Note: On May 1, 2006 Sober Day USA was introduced nationwide by the Brent Shapiro Foundation. The following is an excerpt from a speech made by Ms. Belinda Thompson that morning at the Bellagio. Members of the Clark County Community, Mayor Goodman and Mr. And Mrs. Robert Shapiro were present. See photo on right taken by Ms. Olga Mendoza.



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This morning I would like to talk to you not about statistics, or science based programs nor do I want to speak to you about best, promising practices or model programs...mind you, they all have their places of relevance regarding the building and the shaping of the foundations of our community based programs, strategies and implementations. But, today I would like to speak to your hearts and ask that each of you ask your neighbor: **“remember to remind me ...What about the Children?”** “ If we each are truly only as strong as the weakest link, then “What about the Children”? Are they not our future?

adults or Senior Citizens to substance use and or abuse is one too many. To watch the light dim for yet another child in the 6th grade, watch him slowly fade away by the 8th grade and drop out of school, out of life, out of society by the 9th grade should be abhorable to each of us not only as professionals, but as parents and members of our communities. **Just as we all know that no man is an island unto himself...we cannot begin to address the issues of substance use or abuse without a plan for the family!** Substance use knows no socio economic, class, gender or racial divide. It cannot be dealt with as such.

We are in the presence of an awesome family today and I give honor to the Shapiro Family. A family who has chosen to take such a personal and private loss and through their grief, they are asking the question...That's my story. What's your story? How can I, how can we plant the seeds of success and the beat of hope in just one child...one family...one prevention and treatment provider, law enforcement officer, educator, member of the clergy, Community partner? To know that they know...to lose one of our babies, our elementary school children, our pre-teens, teens, young adults,

Before we build one more prison to house one more child who started out just sipping a can of beer and ended up abusing drugs, or engaging in criminal activities—before another Senior Citizen becomes addicted to prescription drugs, before another teen gets jumped into a gang walking to or from school. Lets revitalize our community neighborhoods. Lets share words of encouragement and foster seeds of hope, lets build upon those things which are right and good and true and just. **What about the children?** What about neighborhood cookouts and streets where children can play ball again and have car washes on a Saturday afternoon? When did these things become obsolete and why did we allow it to happen? I remember: **The Age of Instantaneousness.**

Please visit Goshen Community Development Coalition's new web site at www.goshenonline.org and let us know your thoughts on any aspect of it. You can find our schedule, information on our projects, links to our partners and to other useful information.

Our world is full of instants and right nows. Gratifications that don't require or encourage teamwork, partnership or the fostering of relationships or trust. We have isolated ourselves behind play station threes, online chat rooms and instant messages. We no longer need two people for a game of jacks or one on one basketball...we have our play station. We don't need to verbalize with another person to share our thoughts, ideas, plans for the future or dreams...we have online chat rooms and instant messages. We must find that place between yesterday and today and make a safe haven for our children, our families and our communities, after all there is nothing new under the sun and don't all things become new again? When did concern and compassion go out of style? We must become proactive agents of change, willing to address the issue of substance use and abuse one PERSON at a time. This is a collective issue that is as individualistic as the person with the disease. Many of our guests today will provide you with an enormous amount of information regarding the cause and effects of substance use and abuse, I am grateful that for today, that is not my charge. Today, my charge is to **Remember to remind you...what about the children?** This is the Shapiro family's story...**What is your story? How will you impact and make a difference in the lives of those who live in our communities? Let's make each day a Sober Day!**

Meet One of our Providers—Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA)

Jewish Family Service Agency is a comprehensive social service agency committed to addressing the human service needs of children, adolescents and adults. While guided by Jewish principles and values, JFSA's programs and services are open to all in the community. JFSA's vision is to address the evolving social service needs of the community by providing affordable, quality professional services with compassion and respect for the dignity of those we serve. JFSA in partnership with the Goshen Community Development Coalition, through a grant from the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Awareness (BADA) is sponsoring an awareness campaign on the effects of underage drinking in our communities. One of their interns, Katie Mathis, recently showed the "This Place" DVD from the Face Project. She wrote this synopsis of the reactions she found amongst the viewers:

FACE Presentation at Canyon Springs High School

On March 24th 2006, I presented some FACE material to three classes at Canyon Springs High School in Las Vegas, Nevada. Each class was from a different grade: Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors, making up a total of 75 students. This particular High School is a Title I school and is made up of 42.6% African American students, 41.5% Hispanic students, 11% Caucasian students, and 4% other.

I started off showing them the FACE video entitled "This Place." I prefaced the video and asked them to let me know how they liked it or did not like it because I had never shown it to a group before. After the video, there were only positive statements being made about the video. Some examples are: "I really liked the video, I think you should show it to the other classes.", "I enjoyed the music at the end.", and "I was most affected by the 911 call." The students were very attentive as they watched the video and I could tell that it made them think about the negative effects of underage drinking. One student compared the video to his own situation. The video showed how alcohol is made so accessible and is advertised so much. In the low-income area he lives, he questioned why there was a liquor store on every other corner. He felt that it was a way to keep an already underprivileged population down. I thought this was an interesting comment. I had the students split up into groups of 5 and write down the top 5 reasons they felt that kids participate in underage drinking. Some of the answers they reported were peer pressure, depression, parents give it to them, just because they don't really care, they don't fit in, and problems at home.

I shared a personal story of a friend of mine who had died of a drug and alcohol overdose. He was a senior in high school and his dad found him in his bed in the morning. I noticed that when I shared a personal story, the students were very attentive and were affected by the story. Also, I encouraged the students to share their own stories. Many were a little reluctant to share in a school setting. One student had a private discussion with the teacher at the end of the class. He told her that this topic was very familiar to him because he had almost died from drinking too much. She told him that he should share that with other students so that they can learn from his mistakes. He said he felt frustrated because he had tried in the past and that none of his friends will listen to him. He felt the frustration of trying to get through to his peers. Overall, I felt that the discussion was informative.

"This Place" is available in DVD and VHS formats for loan from the Goshen Community Development Coalition. If you would like to borrow it for your organization, please call Kathleen Dickinson at 419-4555.



YOUTH SHOUT (IT) OUT!



At the Virgin Valley Family Services Town Hall Meeting in Mesquite on May 19, 2006 the 13 to 17 year old youth asked a variety of questions, some of which are:

- ♥ Why is underage drinking not enforced as much as it should be?
- ♥ Why is it that the drinking age everywhere else is 18, but it is 21 in the USA?
- ♥ Other than not selling it to underage minors, what are other ways that can be implemented to prevent underage drinking?
- ♥ Why do they say Native Americans cannot drink? Does alcohol effect them differently?
- ♥ It really makes me angry that a high school survey says that 18% of females and 39% of males say it is acceptable for a boy to force sex if the girl is high or drunk! Why would they say that, especially 18% of the girls?
- ♥ Why is alcohol accepted while marijuana is not?
- ♥ Why do people say "don't drink and drive", but smoking is just as big of a distraction and dangerous?
- ♥ Why is alcohol so big on TV when it is the number 1 deadliest drug?
- ♥ What spot on the brain is triggered by alcohol?
- ♥ Why is alcohol socially acceptable if it causes "so many" problems?
- ♥ Why do they sell alcohol to DUI or alcohol abusers?
- ♥ Tobacco ads were cut from TV, why not alcohol ads?
- ♥ Why do you think kids feel the need to drink besides to "fit in" and or peer pressure?
- ♥ Why is "alcoholism" considered a disease?
- ♥ At 21, if you start drinking, will you be a binge drinker or a social drinker?

How would you answer their questions?

Youth's Voices are Heard—What a great way to learn about Lobbying and making a difference! When youth have productive activities, they do not have time to "get into trouble".

Two Glen Taylor Elementary School students took to heart a book they read called "The Time for Courage" about a girl whose mother is a suffragist. Their goal is to create a holiday recognizing the struggle to get women the right to vote.

Last year the girls persuaded U. S. Representative Shelly Berkley to present a congressional resolution to Congress acknowledging the achievements of the suffragists. The bill pointed out the suffragists' accomplishments should be remembered, but it did not designate a specific day or month. The girls, Hannah and Destiny are working to have July 19th, (the anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention that took place in 1848 and eventually led to women gaining the U.S. right to vote in 1920) become a national holiday. Hannah and Destiny are great role models!

Youth Slogan Poster Contest

CREATIVE ELEMENTS



At our Town Hall Meetings this spring we found enthusiasm from the youth asking for ways to say "no" to drugs, alcohol and sex. We now invite the youth to give us their ideas in the way of slogans and posters. How would you say "No"? **Please submit your posters** to the Goshen Coalition, 2008 Hamilton Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89106. We will create a panel of youth to determine the winners. Prizes include gift certificates at Wal-Mart, Target, and McDonalds.



Photo of Youth and panelists at May 19, 2006 Virgin Valley Family Services Town Hall Meeting. Ms. Shawn Hotch is Executive Director.

Have you seen Goshen's **Not Me Not Now—Making Smart Choices About Sex** PSAs on KLAS-TV?

The PSAs began running in 2005 with help of a grant through the Bureau of Family Health Services Nevada State Health Division. Thank you Kyle Devine and Jessica Cowee. For more information please visit www.notmenotnow.org.



CEO's of EPS Entertainment and Big Keith's House speak to the youth about Civic responsibility and Higher Education during the Cambridge Recreation Center Leadership and Resiliency Program.

Cambridge Recreation Center/Leadership and Resiliency — Stavan Corbett

Located in one of the most crime ridden areas and known for it's reputation for high gang activity, (according to the Clark County Gang Intervention program Back on Track), the Cambridge Recreation Center has been a partner through the Clark County Parks and Recreation Division since the conception of the (Nevada Partners) Leadership and Resiliency Program in the summer of 2005. Most recently the LRP, which serves as a foundation to the CRC Off The Street program has gone through and completed the 12-week Batteries Included and LRP Curriculum.

Through the leadership and tenacity of Batteries Included project coordinator Brook Reid, all program graduates who have interviewed with prospective employers from the Luxor and Excalibur have been offered employment. As some of the youth prepare themselves for what will be their first employment experience, others who have gone through the program and were not of qualifying age for employment continue to mentor others who prepare to begin their LRP experience.

Entrepreneurs and community advocates such as Jay Hadahero (CEO of ESP Entertainment) and "Big" Keith Bowen (CEO of Big Keith's House) talk to youth about their beginnings and how endeavors directed toward developing character and seeking a post-secondary education are vital in securing not only their future but also the future of their communities. Youth are asked that, if given the opportunity to duplicate themselves, would their community be better, worse, or the same?

Young people are given the opportunity to be exposed to business professionals and students from the National Society of Black Engineering (NSBE) of UNLV. The NSBE comes down every week to develop an emotional connection emphasizing the importance of post-secondary education. The NSBE students coordinate the youth in multiple activities such as culinary classes, where young people are given the opportunity to cook and taste foods from such places as Africa and Hawaii. The NSBE students also consistently provide tutoring in the much needed subjects of math and science.

Big Keith's House implores youth to be successful in social and academic endeavors. As the school year ends some of the youth proudly display their report cards as evidence of their academic success. As youth call on their innate abilities along with the skills which have been taught to them as part of the challenge of building up their communities, friendly competitions are held. These competitions show that young people not only have to use their athletic abilities but also their cognitive skills. By blending the two, they begin to understand strategy and its importance. The youth are often reminded of the words of Leadership And Resiliency project leader Dr. Alonzo Jones: "If someone can beat you at thinking, they can beat you at anything".



Around the State

Nye Communities Coalition is offering a 10 hour program, Building Capacity (I and II) to all prevention organizations and coalitions throughout Nevada. "Capacity building is, in part, influenced by how well individuals and groups get along, deal with conflict, and work together for common goals. By understanding and managing group developmental processes, the leader/facilitator/manager can enhance the capacity building that takes place in her/his organization to impact and influence the larger community". Loyd Platson, the program facilitator is excellent. Loyd's email address is: loyd@nyecc.org; Telephone: 775-727-9970; Costs are very reasonable. Each part of the program provides 4 CEHs. Call Nye Communities Coalition today to schedule Loyd to present to your staff, board, or members.



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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



Empowerment Assets are: #7 Community Values Youth; #8 Youth as Resources; #9 Service to Others; and #10 Safety. These assets are about being valued and appreciated—knowing that you matter to other people. They're about having chances to contribute and serve, make a difference and get noticed for your efforts. They're about being safe, because it's hard to feel strong and capable when you're scared.

“Don't wait to be given a useful role.

Create one for yourself. Stand up, speak out, and stay informed. Most people agree that being out in the world makes life more interesting and meaningful. Don't wait to be asked to be part of your community; jump in by volunteering your time, talents, and abilities. Here are 10 ideas to try:

- 1. Identify something that needs changing, then work to change it.**
- 2. Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper on issues that concern you. Alert the media when you see your peers making contributions.**
- 3. Lobby for (or against) ordinances or laws.**
- 4. Give a speech on a topic you care about—children's rights, homelessness, domestic violence, education, senior citizens, health care.**
- 5. Create and/or update a community Web page.**
- 6. Join a group that builds or renovates housing for low-income or homeless families.**
- 7. Develop a skill you can share and teach others.**
- 8. Campaign for someone who's running for office in your school, city or state.**

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