

BEING THE FOOTPRINT OTHERS WANT TO FOLLOW



Roanoke County Prevention Council is awarded National Drug Free Communities Grant to benefit all youth and families in Roanoke County

John Walters, Director of National Drug Control Policy announced the award of \$24.4 million in Drug Free Communities grants to 199 communities across the country. Roanoke County Prevention Council is one of the recipients of these grants in the amount of \$625,000 over the next five years, beginning October 1, 2008. "The Drug-Free Communities program helps communities get the hard work of prevention done," said SAMHSA Administrator Terry Cline, Ph.D. "By connecting local programs, systems and funding streams through these grants, the full force of the community will be brought to bear on preventing drug abuse and promoting healthy, productive lives."

The DFC program provides this grant to community organizations that facilitate citizen participation in local drug prevention efforts. The Roanoke County Prevention Council is a coalition which prides its bench strength on the collaboration and partnerships with many sectors of the community including Roanoke County Schools, Family Service of Roanoke Valley, United Way of Roanoke Valley, Roanoke County government, Roanoke County Parks and Recreation, Roanoke County Police Department, Carilion Clinic, Blue Ridge Health, Cox Communication, Virginia Tech, WDBJ7, and Ukrops.

The Council was selected from over 400 applicants across the nation through a competitive peer review process. All awardees must have at least a six month history of work-

ing together on substance abuse reduction initiatives, have representation from twelve specific sectors of the community, develop a strategic prevention plan to reduce substance abuse, and participate in a national evaluation of the DFC program.

The Roanoke County Prevention Council was also selected as a finalist for the GOT OUTCOMES! Coalition Awards Program sponsored by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America or CADCA. This competition recognizes groups which have successfully impacted substance abuse outcomes in a measurable way through the implementation of their strategic prevention plan. In partnership with the Roanoke County Schools, the Council has adminis-



Continuing to bring the community together in the name of prevention.

tered a bi-annual survey for all middle and high school youth to measure the effects of its anti-drug, alcohol and bullying message since 2002. The trend data from this instrument has demonstrated that when a community comes together, prevention does work.

Looking Back

We started the year with a "Silence Isn't Golden It's Permission" PSA with Cox Cable. We had 3 youth attend the National CADCA Convention in Washington DC and do a 1 hour multi-media presentation for over 160 adults and youth. We did a prom/graduation PSA with WDBJ7. Our high school youth planned and implemented the 3rd annual regional YADAPP conference. The 2008 Youth Risk behavior survey was given for the 4th time since 2002 to ALL middle and high school students of Roanoke County. Our youth presented at William and Mary at a state conference on addiction as well as the Town Hall meeting on underage drinking. We were able to get our YRBS numbers before the PTA and board of supervisors and were able to secure funding to start internet safety classes with parents for the 2008-09 school year. We had students from county high schools attend the state YADAPP conference this past summer and have been able to take a leadership role in the founding of the Community Coalitions of Virginia. The Council has began presenting the YRB data to elementary school PTA's, hosted the Family Day Dinner with diner provided by Ukrop's and co-hosted the "Is 21 the Magic Number" round table discussion on lowering the drinking age to 18. Most importantly, we received our grant that will let us continue our work for another 5 years. A successful year in deed.

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We're on the web!!

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Who We Are

The Roanoke County Prevention Council is a group of parents, youth, school, business, faith and other community leaders who formed a partnership in March 2001 to foster the healthy development of Roanoke County Youth.

Our Goals

The Roanoke County Prevention Council seeks to prevent alcohol use, drug use and other high risk youth behaviors by:

- Educating the community about the risks facing youth and families
- Strengthening families by providing information and parenting classes to families of pre-teens, and by encouraging family communication
- Promoting coordination and partnership between community organizations serving youth
- Strengthening our community by increasing the neighborhood attachment of families and youth who move in and around Roanoke County. Neighborhood connection and networking are major factors in preventing high risk youth behavior
- Providing more opportunities for positive youth involvement and recognition in our community

Looking Forward

2009 is already shaping up to be a great year. Look for the following events coming up in the first few months of the new year.

- Guiding Good Choices
Brambleton Center 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27
- Jan 13th, 3:45—5:00
North County Coalition,
North Side Middle School
- Jan 17th 2:00PM It's My
Prom Fashion Show,
North Side High School
- Jan 21st, 9:00—10:00
Glenvar Coalition , Middle
School forum
- Jan 22nd, 4:00—5:00 Wil-
liam Byrd Coalition, Craig
Center, Vinton
- Feb 13, 11:30—1:00,
South County Coalition
- Internet safety classes
starting in February, dates
to be announced
- Southwest Youth Leader-
ship Conference March
21st from 10:00 AM—
4:00 PM, Hollins Univer-
sity



*May you and your family
enjoy a safe and fun filled
holiday season.*