



TALBOT PARTNERSHIP

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Promoting Partner Membership

If you or someone you know would like to become a **Partner** of Talbot Partnership, visit our Web site and click on [Partner Agreement Form](#) or set up a meeting with Susan LaFerla by calling 410-819-8067.

If you are currently a member, remember it is time to renew!

Talbot Partnership Newsletter October 2009

The Talbot County Blue Ribbon Commission Oversight Committee (BRCOC) recently published its 2009 Status Report, *Call to Community Action to Prevent and Reduce Substance Abuse in Talbot County*, which was inserted in the *Star-Democrat* on August 27.

If you missed reading the report, I encourage you to visit our web site <http://www.talbotpartnership.org>. Just click on the button on our home page to view the report in its entirety. The report's purpose is to publish data on the Blue Ribbon Commission-recommended interventions.

Kathy Foster, Health Officer, Talbot County Health Department, who is quoted in the report, states, *"Substance abuse is an epidemic of crisis proportions in Talbot County. It spans all socioeconomic groups and impacts our workplaces, schools, roadways, families, and safety. How much do we value the well-being of our youth and our community and what are we willing to do about it?"*

Contact me at gpearce@talbotpartnership.org or call 410-819-8067 to learn ways you can be involved in building a community culture that favors drug-free youth.

Gary Pearce, Executive Director, Talbot Partnership



Talbot County 2009 BRCOC Status Report Reveals

Safe Homes Pledge



Pictured is Kelly Griffith, Principal at Easton High School, signing the Safe Homes Pledge on behalf of her children in Talbot County Public Schools.

Learn more about [Safe Homes](#).

Talbot Youth Acting Out What They See At Home

One of the important findings in the 2009 BRCOC Report is that the 2007 MAS data also tellingly notes that “substance abuse of adolescents is much like that of the adult population.” In fact, alcohol is deeply entrenched in our social and cultural norms and daily adult behaviors. A sampling of measures indicates Talbot County’s problem with adult abuse of alcohol:

- Per capita adult consumption of wine (over 7 gallons per person, per year) is the highest in the state, *Maryland Alcohol and Tax Report, FY 2008*;
- Adult binge drinking rate is the 3rd highest in Maryland, *Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2006*;
- Adult hospital in-patient discharge rate for alcohol-related diagnoses is 20% higher than the state average, *Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) 2004*; and
- Alcohol-induced death rate leads all of Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions, *Vital Statistics Administration, DHMH 2006*.

Upon reviewing this and similar data, the Talbot County Blue Ribbon Commission observed that Talbot County’s substance abuse problem is not limited to its children, who are simply acting out what they see at home. To learn more about how ways to be more involved in your teen’s life, visit www.talbotpartnership.org or contact Gary Pearce at Talbot Partnership at 410-819-8067.

New Talbot Youth Coalition Growing

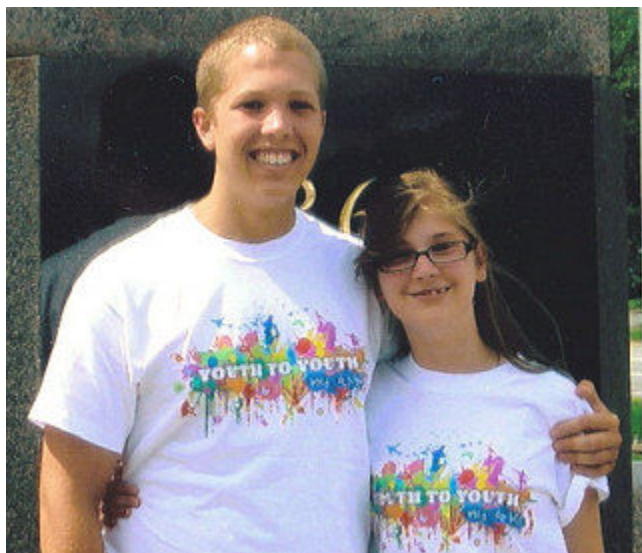
Since Talbot Partnership sponsored a youth training program for Talbot County youth interested in participating in a Youth Coalition for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention last spring, 10 to 15 interested youth are gathering regularly to plan drug and alcohol-free programs and activities for the youth of Talbot County. The Youth Coalition is looking for new members, ages 13 through 18, who are interested in taking a leadership role in the community, with a special need for younger members who can help to keep the process moving forward. The most recent Youth Coalition meeting was held October 22 at 6:00 pm at the Talbot Partnership offices (8 Goldsborough St. Suite 203 - 2nd floor of the Bank of America Building).



Over 70 Talbot County youth enjoyed the first alcohol/drug free event sponsored by the Talbot Youth Coalition for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention – a pool party at the George Murphy Community Pool in Easton.

Youth Coalitions Students attend Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Convention

This summer, two members of the Talbot County Youth Coalition for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Sawyer Spurry of Easton and Linda Seymour of St. Michael's, attended the four-day Youth-to-Youth Conference at Bryant University in Springfield, Rhode Island. The conference was one of three national conferences held around the country designed to provide training, information and skills on making good choices, living an alcohol and substance free youth, as well as offering ways for youth to strengthen their communities through action planning sessions.



Pictured left to right are Sawyer Spurry of Easton and Linda Seymour of St. Michaels, members of the Talbot Youth Coalition for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse

Prevention, who along with Talbot Partnership Director Gary Pearce, attended the Youth-to-Youth Conference at Bryant University in Springfield Rhode Island.

Talbot Partnership Honors 2009 Award Recipients

The Talbot Partnership for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention hosted its 2009 Annual Awards Reception at MEBA Engineering School in Easton, MD in June. Seven awards were presented to recognize both individual and organizational contributions toward raising safe and healthy youth. Award recipients for 2009 were Blenda Armistead, Chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission and member of the Blue Ribbon Commission Oversight Committee; Hugh Dawkins, Chairman of the Blue Ribbon Oversight Committee; the YMCA of Talbot County; and Nikki Swann, student volunteer. High school graduates Jordan Fairbanks, Joseph Luby, and Jeremy Winter also received Talbot Partnership's Youth Scholarship Awards.

Talbot Partnership's 2009 Youth Scholarship awards were presented to Jordan Fairbanks of St. Michaels High School, Joseph Luby of Easton High School, and Jeremy Winter of Gunston Day School. To view detailed information about the award recipients, visit <http://talbotpartnership.org/news.html>.



Pictured left to right are Blenda Armistead, Chair of the BRC and member BRCOC; Joseph Luby of Easton High School; Jeremy Winter of Gunston Day School; Jordan Fairbanks of St. Michaels High School; Robbie Gill, president and CEO of the YMCA of Talbot County; student volunteer Nicki Swann of Cordova; Gary Pearce, executive director of Talbot Partnership; and Hilary Spence accepting on behalf of Hugh Dawkins, chairman of the BRCOC.

Families Encouraged to Sign Safe Homes Pledge

What does it mean to have a "Safe Home" in Talbot County? It means that you have pledged to supervise all teen gatherings

and prohibit underage alcohol, tobacco and drug use in your home.

Talbot Partnership recently sent out **Safe Homes Pledges** to parents of students in 6th through 12th grades. By signing the pledge, parents make a clear statement to their teens regarding expectations and rules for their conduct in their home, as well as in the homes of their friends. Each year, more than 500 families with teens in schools in Talbot County use the **Safe Homes Directory** to connect to other families to help keep their teens drug free at home, as well as away from home.

Sponsors of the **Safe Homes** program are Talbot Partnership, Talbot County Public Schools, Sts. Peter & Paul, and the Talbot County Health Department. For further information or to become a **Safe Homes** parent, contact Talbot Partnership 410-819-8067 or sign up online at <http://talbotpartnership.org/safehomes.html>.

Resources

In addition to our Web site <http://www.talbotpartnership.org>, in each issue of our e-newsletter, we highlight resources that may be helpful to you on the health effects of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs.

Web Sites

New Web Site Alerts and Engages Parents in Escalating Issues of Pro-Drug Web Content - The Treatment Research Institute (TRI) and Unyos, a Maryland-based Internet developer, along with the Partnership for a Drug-Free America (Partnership), recently released "WebSafe," an on-line platform to educate and empower parents, professionals and others to protect teens and other children from Internet drug threats.

Now accessible at <http://www.websafeparent.com/>, WebSafe is an online community educating adults about pro-drug content to which children may be exposed every time they go online, whether or not their parents are aware the sites are glorifying drug use and/or imparting incorrect information. WebSafe also provides Community Alerts that regularly notify registered "WebSafe Parents" about new, potentially harmful websites and other Internet threats.

Book Review

How to Raise a Drug Free Kid by Joseph A. Califano, Jr. is a handbook for parents of children ages 8 and up about the sea of drugs and alcohol their kids are confronting. No place is safe: not home (think liquor and medicine cabinets, the refrigerator, the cleaning closet, older siblings, dealer friends); not school (think other students and the pressure to be "cool"); not the community (think lax liquor/package store ID practices and parking lot "hey mister

would you” second party sales). Parenting can make all the difference through these drug risk years. A key prevention activity says Califano is eating supper together as much as possible. Dining together, or enjoying some similar, regular activity, encourages bonding and shows how much the parent cares about the child. Knowing this affects all aspects of the child’s life. Self confidence and sense of self worth help them resist behaviors they know can threaten their futures.

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