

Talbot Partnership News - September 2011



Celebrating 20 Years of Community Service

Back to School Advice for Parents

from Gary Pearce, Director

As we send kids back to classrooms for another school year, it's important for parents to talk with their children about alcohol. Parents are the first line of defense when it comes to teen drug use or drinking. Teen alcohol use kills 6,000 young people each year, more than all other illegal drugs combined. However, research shows that three out of four teens say their parents are the number one influence on their decisions about alcohol and that clear and ongoing communication about alcohol is critical in preventing underage drinking.

Below are a few practical tips for communicating with teens about underage drinking that were prepared by MADD and with Pennsylvania State University's Dr. Robert Turrissi:

Talk before a problem starts.

- Have the important discussions now, before there's blame, anger or punishments.
- Agree on a time to talk about the dangers of alcohol — preferably when they're not tired, hungry or angry.

Discuss rules and consequences.

- Explain expectations and tell them you don't want him/her drinking.
- Agree on consequences for broken rules.

Show you care.

- Show affection and tell them that you care about them and want them to be healthy and safe.

Pay attention.

- Even when life gets hectic, take time out to listen to them.
- Know where they are and what they're doing.

Give and get respect.

- Listen and respond respectfully when they talk.
- Insist that they treat you with respect too.

Parents can make a difference! For more tips on parenting substance-free youth, contact Talbot Partnership at 410-819-8067 or visit www.talbotpartnership.org.

Be a part of the solution - Join Safe Homes Talbot!



By signing the Safe Homes pledge at the beginning of each school year, parents take a stand and join forces with other parents to be a part of the solution to Talbot County's underage abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

[More>](#)

Pictured left to right, standing, are Eric Pittsinger, assistant principal; Linda Wieder, assistant principal; and Lib Cassidy, assistant principal. Seated front row, left to right, are Norby Lee, principal Easton Middle School and Dr. Karen Salmon, Superintendent of Talbot County Public Schools.

Talbot County Teen Court is Getting Results



Talbot County Teen Court is a voluntary diversion program that allows first time teen offenders, ages 13 to 17, to be judged by a jury of their peers rather than having their case heard by an intake officer or the Court.

Nearly 90 percent of the teens tried through Talbot County Teen Court don't get in trouble again while they are in school. [More>](#)

Pictured is Bob Coleman, Talbot County Teen Court Coordinator.

Talbot Youth Attend Youth-to-Youth International Conference in Rhode Island



Five members of the Talbot County Youth Coalition for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention recently attended a Youth-to-Youth International conference at Bryant University in Springfield, Rhode Island. Youth-to-Youth International provides annual leadership conferences led by teens, alongside adults, to provide training to initiate or improve local youth programming.

[More>](#)

Pictured left to right are Rachael Whiting of Easton High School, Morgan Whiting of Easton High School, Dajwan Emory of Easton High School, Austin Spurry of St. Michaels High School, Sawyer Spurry, graduate of St. Michael's High School and college student at the University of Maryland.

Talbot Partnership Hires Community Organizer



Talbot Partnership has announced the hiring of Sparrow Mahoney of St. Michaels to the position of Community Organizer, through its recently awarded Maryland Strategic Prevention Framework Grant, administered through the Talbot County Health Department.

The grant will address the following: reduce the number of youth, ages 12-20, reporting past month alcohol use; reduce the number of young persons, ages 18-25, reporting past month binge drinking; and reduce the number of alcohol-related crashes involving youth ages 16-25. [More>](#)

Pictured is Sparrow Mahoney, recently appointed Community Organizer.

Talbot Partnership Celebrates 20th Year Anniversary!

Talbot Partnership is in the process of planning for a year-long celebration of its 20th anniversary. Events, activities and promotions are being planned to raise awareness in the community about Talbot Partnership's accomplishments, while honoring past and present board members, volunteers, and partners. If you are interested in helping with the celebration, contact Gary Pearce at 410-819-8067 or gpearce@talbotpartnership.org.

For further information about Talbot Partnership's programs, visit www.talbotpartnership.org or call 410-819-8067 or visit us on Facebook.

Talbot Partnership for Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Prevention - www.talbotpartnership.org

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