



TALBOT PARTNERSHIP

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Save the Date

Talbot Partnership Holiday Breakfast, Wednesday, December 15 at 8 a.m. at William Hill Manor.

Make Your Home a Safe Home

Talbot Partnership suggests the following additional tips for parents of teens to stay diligent in their efforts to keep their teens drug free in their homes and in the homes of their friends:

- Get to know your teen's

Talbot Partnership Newsletter October 2010 Message from the Director

With school back in session, as parents and educators, we need to pay more attention to the activities of our teens, especially in regard to exposure to tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. According to the Web site, Parents.The Anti-Drug www.theantidrug.com, teens are under a great deal of pressure today to fit in, be perfect, be sexually active, to pick on others, and to be successful.

To fit in, or escape from the pressures today, teens may decide to use tobacco, alcohol or other drugs as a way of coping. This Web site is a great resource for parents looking for ways to connect with their teens and help them navigate these issues. For other parenting tips and further information, visit our web site at www.talbotpartnership.org.

Gary Pearce, Executive Director, Talbot Partnership

Navigating the Tweens and Teens - Drug Free!

Talbot Partnership is offering a new one hour course for parents, *Navigating the Tweens and Teens – Drug Free!* The presentation, targeted at parents of children in grades five through eight, provides resources and strategies for dealing with a few of the temptations that are likely to confront teens, including alcohol, the Internet, and peer pressure. To schedule a session or for more information, contact Jane McConnell at Talbot Partnership at 410-819-8067 or e-mail jmccconnell@talbotpartnership.org.

Families Encouraged to Sign Safe Homes Pledge

Talbot Partnership recently sent out **Safe Homes Pledges** to parents of students in 8th through 12th grades in Talbot County. By signing the pledge, parents pledge to supervise all teen gatherings and prohibit underage alcohol, tobacco and drug use in their homes. The Safe Homes Pledge is not a legally binding document; it is a good faith effort.

A directory of parents willing to “Take a Stand” against underage alcohol and other drug use will be provided to all parents who take the pledge. 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 free from alcohol and other drugs at home, as well as away from home.

Sponsors of the **Safe Homes** program are Talbot Partnership, Talbot County Public Schools, Sts. Peter & Paul, Country School,

friends and their families.

- Call other parents when teen make plans and confirm adults will be present.
- If you are away for the evening or overnight, tell your teens' friends parents, neighbors or police to watch your home.
- Monitor changes in your teen's friends and behavior.
- If you suspect drug use among your teen's friends, call the parents to inquire if they are observing similar behaviors.
- If you suspect your teen is using drugs, call TurnAround at 410-819-5900 – free, confidential drug screening and assessment for adolescents.
- Encourage other parents to become Safe Homes parents.

TipLine: 410-820-4003

The Talbot TipLine offers citizens the opportunity to report underage drug/alcohol parties in Talbot County anonymously.

Talbot TipLine (410-820-4003) was established through Talbot County's 911 Emergency Operations Center, in coordination with the Talbot Family Network, Talbot Partnership, partner organizations and local police departments.

Citizens can call the TipLine or local police departments to report parties and other disruptive behavior involving youth. Police will follow up on these tips, investigate, and take appropriate action.

Chesapeake Christian School, and the Talbot County Health Department. For further information or to become a **Safe Homes** parent, contact Talbot Partnership at info@talbotpartnership.org or call 410-819-8067.



Pictured is Debbie McQuaid, High Guidance Counselor at Saints Peter and Paul High School, signing her Safe Homes Pledge on behalf of her own children at Saints Peter and Paul High School. With her pictured left to right are junior Miles Sadler of Easton and senior Amanda Wright of Easton.

Resources for Parents of Teens in Transition Years

The Blue Ribbon Commission, appointed by the Talbot County Council, identified that interventions for substance abuse occur too late and developed a strategy to increase parent education about substance abuse risks and prevention when children enter high school and middle school.

Parents of students coming into ninth grade at all Talbot County High Schools received resource folders. Parents of middle school students coming into sixth grade recently received *Talk* conversation cards.

The materials were funded by the Talbot Family Network and Talbot Partnership. For further information, contact Gary Pearce at Talbot Partnership at 410-819-8067 or e-mail gpearce@talbotpartnership.org.



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 Gary Pearce by calling 410-819-8067.

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

Pictured left to right are DeSales Distler, Guidance Counselor, Easton Middle School; Eric Pittsinger, Assistant Principal, Easton Middle School; and Norby Lee, principal Easton Middle School.



Sign Up a Friend

To sign up a friend to receive this E-Newsletter, send an e-mail to info@talbotpartnership.org.

[Forward this message to a friend](#)

Become a Fan!

To become a fan of Talbot Partnership's Facebook Page, visit www.talbotpartnership.org.

Board Members

The Honorable Sidney S. Campen, Jr.
Petie Pailey
Don Cook
Sharon Dundon
Allison Dungan
Rev. Jody Gunn

New Talbot Youth Coalition Growing

Talbot Youth Coalition Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse is growing! The Coalition is a teen organization which encourages and supports drug-free youth, establishing clear no tobacco, alcohol or other drug use, is open to youth ages 13 to 18. The program stresses youth community development and personal growth, where teens play key roles in program, agenda, decision-making and activities while developing leadership skills.

Today, there are more than 200 youth participating in various programs and activities. Among the Coalition's upcoming events are: **Halloween Party** (Friday, October 22 - Hog Neck Community Center); **Mural Workshop** (to be scheduled); **Open Mic night** (to be scheduled); and **New Years Eve Dance with First Night Talbot** (December 31 – Historical Society Auditorium).

Upcoming Talbot Youth Coalition meetings will be held on October 12 and 19 at 6:30 at Talbot Partnership. Pizza will be provided. For further information, contact Gary Pearce at 410-819-8067 or e-mail gpearce@talbotpartnership.org.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Convention

Six members of the Talbot County Youth Coalition for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention recently attended a Youth-to-Youth conference at Bryant University in Springfield Rhode Island. Youth-to-Youth conferences are designed to provide training, information and skills on making good choices, living an alcohol and substance free youth, as well as ways for youth to strengthen their communities through action planning sessions.

Michelle Hammond
Carolyn L. Jaffe
H.P. Ketterman
Paula Lowry
Gail Phillips
Glen Plutschak
Jim Reed
Aric Rosenbach
Laura Swann
Sheila Washburn



Talbot County youth and their leaders who attended the conference are pictured back row, left to right: Sawyer Spurry, a graduate of St. Michael's High School; Liz Cowee of Easton, Talbot Youth Coalition leader; Kataya Murray of St. Michael's High School, Heena Paracha of Easton High School, Jazmine Gibson of Easton High School, Gary Pearce, Talbot Youth Coalition leader and director of Talbot Partnership for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention; and Rachael Whiting of Easton High School. Pictured front row is Morgan Whiting of Easton High School.

New Board Members

Talbot Partnership for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention has announced the appointment of five new board members.



Pictured from left to right are new board members Petie Bailey of Easton, H.P. Ketterman of Easton, Michelle Hammond of Easton, Allison Dungan of Trappe, and Don Cook of Trappe, with Jim Reed of Oxford, current president.