

Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Use Prevention Links

CheckYourself.com

CheckYourself.com is a unique resource. It's a place for older teens to think in a focused way about their relationship with drugs and alcohol, and invites them to consider whether their substance use risks are turning into a problem for them.

The site allows visitors to "look in the mirror" by answering quiz questions about their lifestyle, reading first-person stories, communicating with other teens, and playing decision games to see how they might act in situations involving drugs and alcohol. CheckYourself.com also gives teens a voice by allowing them to share their own "moments of truth." Most importantly, visitors will be able to get factual answers to questions about substance abuse, learn how to talk about their concerns with people who can help them, and get information about counseling and treatment facilities.

drugfree.org

The Partnership for a Drug-Free America is a nonprofit organization uniting communications professionals, renowned scientists and parents. Best known for its national drug-education campaign, the Partnership's mission is to reduce illicit drug use in America.

Now in its 20th year, the Partnership helps parents and caregivers effectively address drug and alcohol abuse with their children. A major new initiative now unfolding integrates the latest science and research with the most effective traditional media and digital communication techniques to give parents the tools, resources and support they need to help their children lead healthy lives.

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QUARTERLY ALERT

Prevention News to Use

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition is to reduce factors that lead to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and increase resiliency factors of adolescents, children and families in high-risk environments in Jackson, Miss.

CALENDAR

Bi-Monthly Coalition Meetings
August 4, 2008
October 6, 2008

Summer Teen Camp
July 21 - 25, 2008
Wall Doxey State Park
Holly Springs, Miss.

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MJCPC attends Youth Leadership Initiative

Metro Jackson CPC peer educators Greenfield, Wells make presentations during CADCA conference in Washington, D.C.

Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition's Peer Educators took Washington, D.C. by storm and D.C. survived them!

The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Youth Leadership Initiative, held in Washington, D.C. Feb. 11-14, was an invitational affair for Ebony Greenfield and Charles Wells, MJPCPC peer educators. Greenfield and Wells were chosen to represent central Mississippi at the national conference based on their active involvement during a National Coalition Academy regional CADCA youth conference training held in Wiggins, Miss.

For Terry Bennett, outreach worker, the lack of bone-chilling cold and especially snow was a blessing. "First of all, thank God for no snow; however, it was very cold. I really enjoyed the conference this year because I got a chance to be with the youths" said Bennett. "They both got a chance to present and they both did extremely well. I got an opportunity to visit with youth from seven different states and they all seemed excited about being there and working together as a big happy family. I also enjoyed the tour of President Woodrow Wilson's home, Embassy Row and Lessons in Diplomacy. It was very educational," she said.

During the National Youth Leadership Initiative held annually in Washington, D.C., students learn about the Strategic Prevention Framework, youth advocacy, logic models, interventions, evaluation and sustainability. The highly interactive training teaches what is required to create and nurture the growth of committed leaders and their work within

coalitions. Afterwards, youth are better equipped to develop strategic action plans to address the problems and goals of the coalition they represent.

Angelia Gooden, training specialist, said, "This year at CADAC, I spent most of the conference time with the youths. These sessions were to inspire the youths to gear up and get ready to increase their community problem-solving skills. In the workshops, they are challenged to reach their peak as community leaders and to be catalysts for change.

"The workshop also taught the adults how we can increase the youths' capacity and skills in participating in social change efforts. The youth workshops were really great and MJPCPC's youth participants made presentations to their peers on leadership and communication. They did a good job," Gooden added.



Major General Arthur Dean of CADCA presented a Youth Leadership Training Certificate to MJPCPC peer educators Charles Wells and Ebony Greenfield as Kareemah Abdullah, CADCA deputy director of training and technical assistance, looks on.



Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition
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Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition collaborates with Region IX Prevention Coalition members to present powerful underage drinking prevention town hall meeting

Thanks to the Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration (SAMHSA), MJCPC and the Region IX Prevention Coalition of which Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition is a member, was able to put together a fantastic town hall meeting on underage alcohol use prevention. Maggie Wade, WLBT news anchor, served as moderator for the distinguished panel of law enforcement personnel, representatives of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Office of the Mayor of the City of Jackson and the



Colby Michael, MJCPC peer educator, addresses questions from the audience during the Underage Drinking Prevention Community Town Hall Meeting.

Mississippi Department of Public Safety. The youths, who were the real stars of the show, did an excellent job. The town hall meeting was held March 31, at the Mississippi e-Center @ JSU as part of SAMHSA's national underage drinking prevention awareness campaign to address the critical health and safety issues related to underage drinking.

"The Underage Drinking Town Hall meeting was very enlightening for the students that attended. The students had lots of questions for the panel. Some questions the panel could not answer. I wish we had more time, because the students were on a roll," said Angelia Gooden, training specialist. "That is what made the town hall meeting so very special. The students were not intimidated by the substance abuse/use prevention 'authority figures.' Students from Blackburn and Hardy middle schools and Jim Hill and Provine high schools challenged the adults to hear their concerns and feel their compassion for a drug-free community," said Gooden.

According to Terry Bennett, outreach worker, "I was very happy that we had a big turnout. I especially thank Alvin L. Clark, for such a great job in getting the students to the town hall meeting. All 100 students that were invited from Provine, Jim Hill, Hardy and Blackburn were present and full of thought-provoking questions." Bennett added, "I was very excited because the students had some very powerful questions to ask. They also received some good information about the prevention of underage drinking and they were told if they

were caught in a nightclub what the consequences would be for them."

As a collaborative effort between the members of the Region IX Prevention Coalition, the Underage Drinking in Hinds County Town Hall Meeting was a masterful demonstration of the power of collective work among ATOD prevention agencies. Alcohol Services, Inc.; Catholic Charities, Hinds Behavioral Health Center, JSU Interdisciplinary Alcohol & Drug Studies Center, and JSU Mississippi Urban Research Center's Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition partnered very well to put together this enlightening prevention education event. The Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol Services served as the clearinghouse agency for the statewide Underage Drinking Town Hall Meeting initiative, lending added support to the Hinds County Underage Drinking Prevention Town Hall Meeting.



Pictured above is Jackson Police Department Sgt. Perry Martin, coalition member, explaining the legal ramifications of alcohol use to the teens who were in attendance at the town hall meeting, as other prevention experts listen intently.

Metro Jackson CPC peer educators Greenfield, Wells make presentations during CADCA conference in Washington, D.C. continued

The peer educators expressed their joy at traveling to CADCA. Wells said, "My trip to Washington was fun overall, but it also made history more real to me. I had the opportunity to see history up close. I got to see one of the largest cathedrals in the U.S. I had the opportunity to tour Woodrow Wilson's house and I got to see the Capitol Building, the Washington Monument and even the White House. I also had the opportunity to meet some very important people, including, Sen. John McCain and Congressman Dale E. Kildee from Michigan. Going to this training has instilled in me a much greater sense of leadership that I can take back to my coalition and apply in my life. I would like to thank the MJCPC and CADCA and all the other private benefactors for believing in me and for your prayers. It was an honor to represent my friends and family. Thank you."

Greenfield said, "My trip to Washington, D.C. was an unforgettable experience. The training I attended this winter was a success. Even though the weather was a little different than what I am used to, I adjusted and still had fun.

"The people there were great and I also connected with a few old friends from the first meeting this summer and met new ones also. I now have friends from about ten other states.

"I stayed at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The food and the service there was great. Charles Wells, my friend who attended the trip with me, made the whole trip worthwhile. I was also glad to see Mr. Hall, Miss Kareemah, Nigel,

and Arlea again. If it weren't for people like them, I would never have been able to go on that trip. I never in a million years expected to be in Washington, D.C. It was honestly a great trip and I encourage everyone to work their hardest so they can go next year."

While the students were involved with the NYLI, the MJCPC staff attended "Sustaining Success in a Time of Change," the CADCA 18th Annual National Leadership Forum. The staff had the opportunity to share prevention strategic experiences and information, establish new relationships in regional networking sessions and take part in workshops to develop strategic organizational skills. CADCA provides training and technical assistance specific to substance abuse prevention through the National Leadership Forum.

Alvin L. Clark, MJCPC program manager, was excited to see a room of 150 to 175 youth focused on a presenter. Milton Creagh, PRIDE Youth Program, Fremont, Mich. had them captivated and fully engaged in a personal introspection about the impact of their choices on others. "That visual alone made the week-long conference worthwhile," said Clark.

"The sustainability/grants discussions, the youth motivation discussions, the networking and the advocating of support on the Hill were all noteworthy events for me at this year's CADCA conference. I am glad I have the opportunity to work for a drug-free community coalition in Jackson," said Clark.

Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition peer educator Courtney Harris profiled

Courtney Harris became involved with the Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition's Peer Educator Program in March 2007. She enjoys working out, talking, using computers and listening to music. She will graduate with Class of 2008 from Murrah High School.

Harris is considering Jackson State University, Hinds Community College, Alcorn State University and/or Grambling State University as her college choices. Computer technology, and/or a job in the medical health field are her career interest areas, if not a singing career. She says the persons she most admires are her family. Her favorites include: "Whateva"(quote), math (school subject), R&B (music), pickles, pineapples and greens (food) and blue (color).

When Harris first applied to be a peer educator, she said, "I enjoy helping out in any positive way I can. I especially enjoy talking with my grandmother and other elderly people in the neighborhood. ... I would like to be a peer educator because it would allow me the opportunity to engage in community activities while providing positive and educational awareness to my peers."

"I believe that Courtney has enjoyed the training sessions and she definitely has been a major help to MJCPC," said Alvin L. Clark, MJCPC program manager. "Whenever asked, and more often volunteering, Courtney has always stepped up to assist the staff and the peers. There is no doubt that she understands what Ralph Abernathy meant when he said, 'Success is not defined by the number of servants you have, but how many people you serve.'"



Courtney Harris