



Youth Assistance Services *News*

The Grosse Pointes & Harper Woods

Community Assessment Referral & Education (CARE) www.caresworklifesolutions.com

Fall 2009

A Year of Accomplishments

With funding from the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) and support from the six municipalities of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods through the Student Assistance Program, Anne Nearhood, CARE staff member, was able to accomplish the following for the fiscal year 2008/2009:

- * Provided support to the Family Center by participating in several events including a *Parenting Symposium*, *Meet & Greet Mental Health Professional event*, *Are Your Kids at Risk?*, and *Eric Hipple's presentation on Teen Suicide*
- * Participated in *Kick Butts Day* (2-day event) at Brownell Middle School, the Harper Woods *National Night Out* Event, the Harper Woods *Activity Night* Event, and organized the Harper Woods *National Family Day*
- * Provided team leadership for the sub-committee of the *Live Well In Grosse Pointe* Committee of Smoke Free Living.
- * Presented to *STAND* students at Brownell Middle School
- * Established a community coalition in Harper Woods to address underage drinking and teen behavior
- * Presented the 11-part *Project Alert* program, addressing high risk behaviors, for 247 students
- * Presented at the *Alcohol Awareness Month* event for 91 students.
- * Served on the *Harper Woods School District Safety Committee*, *Connecting the Pointes*, *Family Center Youth Committee*, *Family Center Early Childhood Committee*, *Live Well in Grosse Pointe* and the *Teen Advisory Board* for the Grosse Pointe Library. Participation includes offering technical assistance and resources.

Research Brief: What Parents Don't Know

According to a recent Common Sense Media survey, parents have a lot to learn when it comes to their children's behaviors online.

<u>Question for Parents:</u> <i>Have you/your child ever done this online?</i>	% of teens	% of parents perception
Share personal information about yourself	54%	29%
Send or post sexual jokes about yourself	28%	16%
Create a profile for yourself with a false identity	25%	12%
Download or share files illegally	23%	10%
Pretend to be an adult while chatting online	18%	8%
Send or post naked or semi-naked photos of yourself or others online	13%	2%

James Steyer, CEO of Common Sense Media, says that, "...communication and socialization in our kids' world is increasingly moving from face-to-face to face-to-cyberspace...in a digital world, parents need to play a more important role than ever in ensuring that kids get the best of these technologies and are using them safely." For more information, visit www.mediapost.com/publications

Youth Assistance Services: A Look Back

Assisting Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods youth for the first nine months of 2009 has proven busier than expected. The Youth Assistance Services (YAS) act as a diversion to help prevent juvenile delinquency and is designed to address status offenses such as curfew violations, truancy, trespassing and substance use. Youth were provided full psychosocial assessments and referral for services as indicated. Twenty two (22) youth, referred for committing underage drinking offenses, received mentoring, work services and involvement in *Project Impact*, an educational program designed to inform youth on the hazards and consequences of underage drinking. The most recent program, *Young Adult Diversion* (YAD), for adolescents ages 18 through 20, provided services for 35 people. The YAD program is also important for youth attending college because it can prevent a legal offense appearing on their record and negatively impacting scholarships or other funding. Evaluations received indicated that 98% of the young adults benefitted from the services provided. For more information, contact Lynda Zott at 586.541.0033 or lzott@careofmacomb.com.

You can now view SAC News on our website! Visit www.careofmacomb.com

In Your Community

- ☆ Two CARE staff will present at the Parenting Awareness Michigan Conference in Lansing on November 9. They will share CARE's Nurturing Program for parents who are involved with the child welfare system.
- ☆ Anne Nearhood, CARE's Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods Community Organizer, gratefully accepted a laptop computer donated by Congresswoman Kilpatrick. The computer will be used in service provided to youth in the six communities.



- ☆ Thank you to The Hill Restaurant who participated in the *Dining For Dollars* fundraising event, supporting The Family Center and CARE. Those who dined on September 15 agree that the food and wait staff was fabulous! Proceeds from the event will provide additional funding for programs serving the Grosse Pointe municipalities and Harper Woods.
- ☆ **KINDERGARTEN: Get Ready!** An annual presentation by professionals on preparing young children for kindergarten. Thursday, November 19, 6:30pm-8:30pm. Register by calling 313.432.3832
- ☆ **SAVE THE DATE—HOLLY FEST!** Thursday, December 10—The Grosse Pointe Club Tickets Are Limited—RSVP 313.432.3832. Benefits the Family Center.

girls & alcopops

Otherwise known as "Girlie Drinks," "Malternatives," "RTDs" (Ready to Drink) or "FABs" (flavored alcoholic beverages), *alcopops* tend to be sweet and contain between 4% and 7% alcohol. These beverages are fruit-flavored, malt-based and come in colorful, teen-oriented packaging. The sweetness and flavoring mask the taste of alcohol, but actually contain more alcohol by volume than most beers. Teen girls report drinking *alcopops* more than other alcoholic drinks and report seeing or hearing more *alcopop* ads on TV, radio, billboards, the internet and in magazines. Par-



ents are encouraged to talk to their kids about the risks of underage drinking and educate them about the targeted marketing of *alcopops*. For more information about underage drinking and its trends, visit

www.alcoholpolicymd.com.

Effective Parenting Education Promotes Success

Research has shown that effective parent education programs and family interventions promote positive outcomes for children. Effective parent education strategies encourage parental peer support, involve fathers, promote positive family interaction, use interactive training techniques, and provide opportunities to practice new parenting skills.

Some examples of evidence-based programs that support these program characteristics and strategies include: Guiding Good Choices, The Incredible Years, Nurturing Parenting Programs, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, SafeCare, Staying Connected, You're Your Teen, STEP (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting), and 1-2-3 Magic.

Adapted from Parent Education, Issue Brief, April 2008, Child Welfare Information Gateway.

To download the entire publication, visit www.childwelfare.gov or call 1.800.394.3366.

You can now view SAC News
on our website!
Visit www.careofmacomb.com

21012 Mack Avenue
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
Phone: 313-332-0972
Fax: 313-469-6956

31900 Utica Road
Fraser, MI 48026
Phone: 586-541-2273
Fax: 586-541-2274

Main Office Hours:
M, T, TH: 8:30 am - 9:00 pm
W & F: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm