

*It's Your Move!*



*Jackson County*

**DRUG-FREE  
COUNCIL**

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**IN THIS ISSUE OF  
"IT'S YOUR MOVE!"**

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FOR THE NEW YEAR**

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**WINTER 2007**

# A Word From The Director



My favorite part of winter is having that first hot cup of coffee in the morning. The best part may well be the heat of the mug's ceramic walls warming my hands – and by extension – my entire being. It's a good feeling that drives away the dreariness of those dark winter mornings.

Unfortunately, for those trapped in an eternal winter of drug and alcohol abuse, no amount of coffee can eliminate the darkness of despair of an existence dictated by the cold grip of substance abuse.

It is especially tragic when those in the spring of life are condemned to spend it in the long, dark nights of an eternal winter – that is to say, our young people.

However, there are many youth that step forward to help their fellow young people, youth that are engaged in the well being of their communities, youth that are willing to donate their time and efforts to improve the lives of their fellows.

I would like to take a minute to thank them. Thank them for their dedication in the struggle to end substance abuse by volunteering to serve on the Jackson County Drug-Free Youth Board despite the sometimes overwhelming demands placed on them by school, sports, homework, chores and the myriad other tasks and stresses of growing up in the fast-paced 21<sup>st</sup> century.

So if you happen to see one of them, stop and give them a hearty handshake or hug, and thank them for a job well done in the important work they are engaged in helping our community in its efforts to reach those youth that are, or may well be entering into that long, dark winter's night of substance abuse and addiction.

Thomas E. Rothring

## **BYRNE JAG MINI-GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

Jackson County Drug-Free Council, Inc. as administrator of a one-time federal grant supplementation to the Community Drug Free Fund has received approval from the County Board of Commissioners and the County Council to allocate these funds to the following worthy alcohol and drug abuse prevention/ education, treatment/intervention and law enforcement/judicial programs in Jackson County.

**JACKSON COUNTY DRUG-FREE COUNCIL, INC.  
BYRNE/JAG FUNDS AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS  
January 22, 2007**

Applicant Name	Request	Award	Prevention Education	Treatment Intervention	Law Enforce Judicial
Alcohol Drug Crt	\$5000.00	\$5000.00	\$4864.66	\$135.34	
CHS SADD	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00		
Excise Police	\$494.88	\$494.88			\$494.88
JC Juvenile DC	\$7262.75	\$4669.78			\$4669.78
Polarity	\$525.00	\$525.00		\$525.00	
Polarity	\$1000.00	\$1000.00		\$1000.00	
JC Juvenile H	\$1500.00	\$1500.00		\$1500.00	
Req / Awd Totals	\$16082.63	\$13489.66	\$5164.66	\$3160.34	\$5164.66
Remaining	*****	\$2004.32	\$0.00	\$2004.32	\$0.00

Total amount available \$15,494 – average available disbursement to each category \$5,164.66  
The remaining fund total of \$2004.32 in Treatment/Intervention will be rolled over into the Spring Mini-Grant cycle of the Community Drug Fund for allocation.

# ***M I N I - G R A N T S***

## **Community Drug Fund Grants Available**

Jackson County Drug-Free Council, Inc. is now accepting applications for Community Drug Fund mini-grants. Any organization providing substance abuse prevention, education, intervention, treatment, judicial or law enforcement programs may apply.

Applications will be accepted until 1:00 pm, Thursday, May 10. Forms may be downloaded from the council's website [www.drugfreecouncil.org/news](http://www.drugfreecouncil.org/news) or by contacting the council at Jackson County Drug-Free Council, Inc., PO Box 915, Seymour, or by e-mailing [director@drugfreecouncil.org](mailto:director@drugfreecouncil.org).

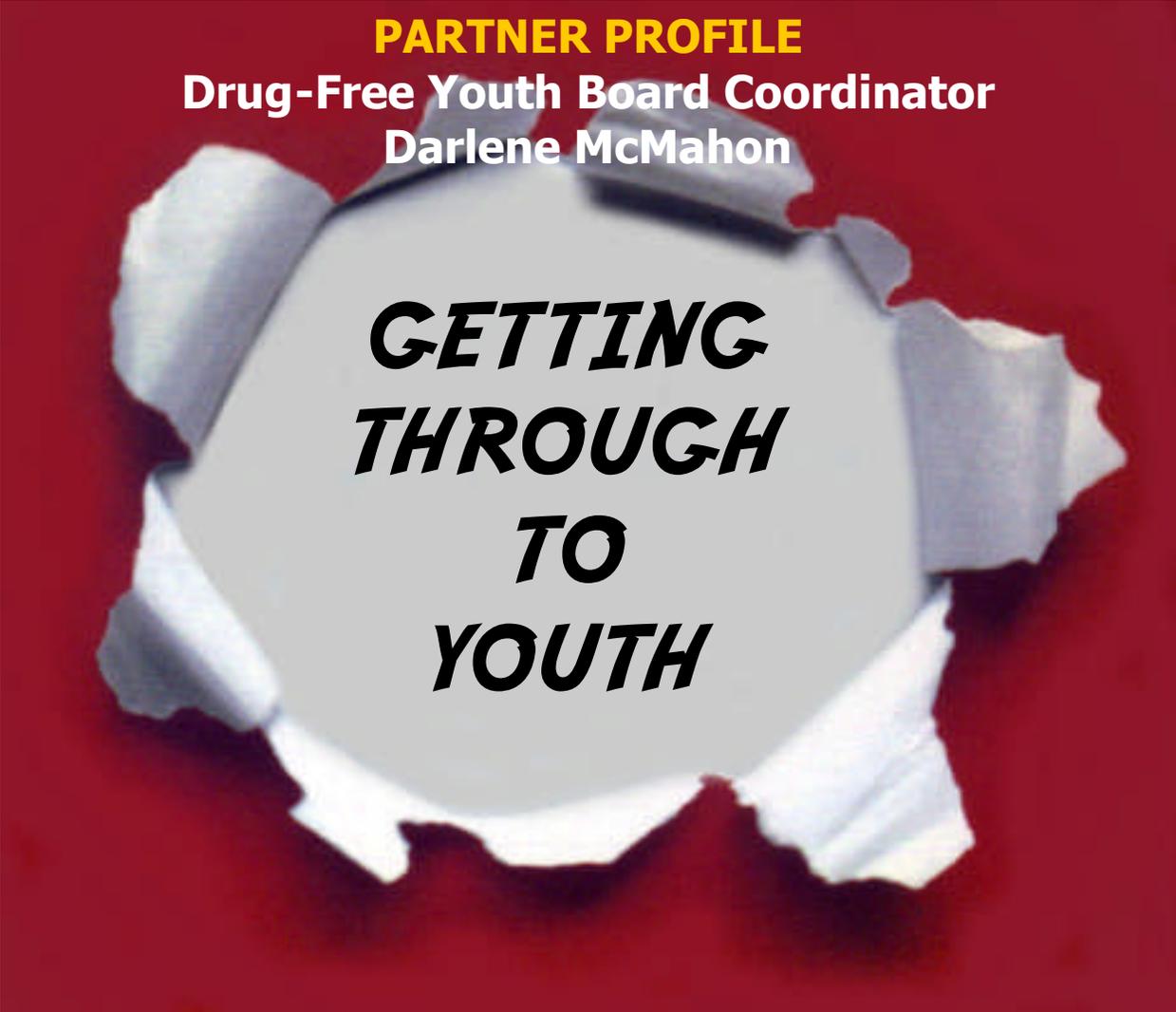
The Drug-Free Council serves as the oversight committee to distribute Community Drug Fund monies to worthy local efforts. These funds enable our county to offer needed programs and services that otherwise would not have been possible. CDF funds are collected as part of court fees from those convicted of drug and alcohol offenses.

The council is made up of local volunteers interested in the prevention and reduction of substance abuse, especially among our youth.

Drug-Free meets at 11:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Covered Bridge Health Campus, US 50 west in Seymour. All meetings are open to the public. Organizations and individuals interested in substance abuse issues are invite to attend.

## **PARTNER PROFILE**

**Drug-Free Youth Board Coordinator  
Darlene McMahon**



***GETTING  
THROUGH  
TO  
YOUTH***

Darlene McMahon was recently hired as the Youth Coordinator for the Drug-Free Coalition to further our efforts to involve more young people in the mission to reduce and prevent alcohol and substance abuse among our youth.

Since her hire in February, Darlene has managed to enroll students from all five county high schools. The youth board members have launched a campaign to inform students of the dangers associated with alcohol and substance abuse in anticipation of "Prom Season." Youth board members are distributing Drug-Free Council t-shirts, yard signs, mouse pads and other "goodies" to fellow students interested in abating substance abuse.

## COMMUNITY FOCUS FORUM INITIATIVE

The Jackson County Drug-Free Council, Inc. has launched a new initiative to bring the council and its mission to our local communities on a regular basis through a series of Community Focus Forums.

The first of these forums have already been held in Brownstown, Crothersville, Medora and Seymour.

The council plans to return to each community on a quarterly basis to continue its efforts to assess community perceptions of alcohol and other substance abuse issues as it effects each community.

Assessment of local issues by community members will help the council identify both county-wide and community specific challenges, capacities and resources in order to better define the county's comprehensive plan designed to outline the council's strategies in its work to reduce and prevent alcohol and other substance abuse.

The council maintains the firm belief that local people are the best experts in the determination of the impact of alcohol and substance abuse on local communities, schools, workplaces and homes.

Future Community Focus Forum schedules will be available on the council's website "Events" page.  
[www.drugfreecouncil.org/events](http://www.drugfreecouncil.org/events)

## Introduction

The Program consists of two major initiatives. They include the formation and maintenance of community based coalitions that are made up of people interested in issues of alcohol, tobacco and drug use and abuse prevention and willing to address those interests in a public forum. The coalition provides not only the connection to related issues within the community but also serves as a sounding board for the community for the input of ideas relating to substance prevention. The second initiative is to provide prevention programming of alcohol, tobacco, drug use, and abuse to the community. Although much of this programming is directed to young people some is directed at older members of the community. The prevention part of the program also includes the dissemination of information within the programs target area. We will look at the progress of both of the initiatives using data provided by the program. Where possible, we will examine both the implementation and impact of the initiatives.

The staff of the Applied Research and Education Center hopes that the program staff finds this document helpful and thought provoking. We further hope that it will help us all further understand and ameliorate the problems associated, both as causes and effects, with alcohol, tobacco and drug use in Jackson County.

## Results

### Friendly PEERsuasion

#### Description

The Friendly-PEERsuasion program has completed its second year serving 1165 students in the public middle schools. The program is currently conducting this year's classes. Indiana University Southeast Applied Research and Education Center under the direction of Dr. Newman evaluated the effectiveness of Friendly-PEERsuasion program and reported its findings in March 2007.

The findings are as follows: section one measured the ability to answer factual questions. Pre-test scores averaged 16.7 out of 24 and post-test scores averaged 17.8. That increase is within the range of chance variation. Section two measured the ability to give advice to a fourteen year old. The average pre-test score was 14.1 out of 17 possible, and the post-test average was 14.7, still within the range of chance variation. The relatively high scores in sections one and two indicate the participants were reasonably well versed in those areas and remained so.

In section three, the participants were asked to speculate on how easy or hard it would be to engage in specific behaviors. The average pre-test score was 5.0 out of 12, and the post-test scores averaged 5.3 suggesting a positive program impact.

Section four measured their knowledge of resources. The pre-test average was 4.9 out of 12, and the post-test average score increased to 6.3. Again, this indicates the program had a positive impact beyond chance variation. However, the post-test scores were only nominally above 50% of the maximum score.

#### Coalition Surveys

Ten members of the Jackson County Coalition completed surveys for the reporting 2006 year. Of the respondents, 60% served as members of a committee and 80% said they do work for the Program outside of regular meetings. Sixty percent of

the members reported having worked a minimum of three hours on Coalition activities, including meetings, in the last month.

Of the Coalition members, 88.9% said there was moderate contact with Service Agencies in the past 12 months, 80% stated moderate contact with police, and 77.8% indicated moderate contact with city government, business community, and the media. The following table represents the perceptions of the Coalition members of how much contact was made with local schools. It should be noted that 2 members did not answer this section; therefore, the results are based on eight members' responses in each question. As the results indicate, the findings are inconsistent; thus, possibly indicating that some members of the Coalition are unaware of the contact of other members with the school system.

There were also inconsistent findings relating to the amount of contact with churches and volunteer organizations. All Coalition members felt that the following areas in the community were represented in the Coalition: the business community, youth organization, human service agency dealing with AODA, police, and schools. Twenty percent of Coalition members also indicated they attempted to recruit from all the above areas, except the business community where 50% of members made contact. According to 90% of the respondents, human service agencies dealing with issues other than AODA are represented, 70% indicated the local government and general concerned citizens were represented, and 60% agreed that neighborhood associations were represented. According to 66% of the members, the faith community is represented; it is also the one area that received the most recruitment efforts (70%). Only 10% of the members felt senior citizen groups and parent groups (PTO/PTA) were represented, they also were only contacted by 20% and 10% respectively for recruitment. Twenty percent of the members felt the ethnic minority is represented and only 20% attempted to recruit from this area.

It was unanimous throughout the surveys that all members feel that responsibilities of projects are shared by the coordinator and members of the coalition. All respondents feel the coordinators job description is clearly defined, and that strategies are in place for sustainability of the coalition. Ninety percent of the members reported an increase in their skills in changing local AOD related policies, 80% feel their belief that prevention is possible has increased.

# It's Your Move!

## THE JACKSON COUNTY DRUG-FREE COUNCIL, INC. NEWSLETTER

Issued quarterly and available on-line at  
[www.drugfreecouncil.org/news](http://www.drugfreecouncil.org/news)

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**Drug Tip Line**

**524-7442 option 2**