

asac action

May 2009

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Junior League Unveils Youth Residential Make-over

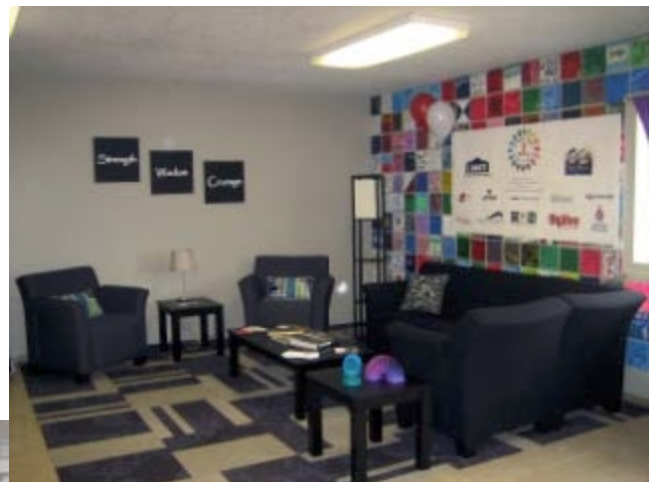
On Sunday, April 26th, the Provisional Class of Junior League of Cedar Rapids unveiled the make-over of ASAC's Youth Residential Recreation Room. Under the



banner "It takes a league to build a community", Junior League, with the help of the following community partners, renovated the room: Lowe's, Shaw Contract Group, Skogman Relocation Services, Comwall, Janda Motor Services, OPN Architects, Channel 2 KGAN, Pioneer Workplace Solutions, Innovative Aesthetion, All Steel, Sherwin Williams and Xi Gamma Sigma. To the left is a before picture of the room.

After the Make-Over

Besides painting the walls and providing new furniture, storage cabinets, accessories, and flooring, Junior League members also donated pillows, bedding, and towels.



We are very appreciative of all the time and efforts that went into this project and want to give special thanks to the project co-chairs, Amy Graham and Tara DeWolfe.

Plan a Party That is Spirited, but “Spirit-Free”

Anthony Jensen, Prevention Specialist

With prom around the corner, spring break will soon be over and high school graduation will be upon us. If you are lucky enough to have a graduating senior this year, congratulations! If you haven't already, the time to start planning for the party is now. With the location, date, invitations, guest list, food and entertainment to consider, it can sometimes seem like more of a chore than a party! While often overlooked, it is equally important to consider the benefits of having an alcohol-free graduation party.

Whether these students will be attending college, entering the military, taking time off, or immediately joining the work force, high school graduation has become a rite of passage. It is important to make graduation a night to remember, not a tragic experience you want to forget. Graduation is a perfect time to set an example by showing them that human beings can be playful and wonderfully outrageous while sober. Having a dry party will save you time, money and frustration. Keeping the graduates entertained without alcohol can prevent a tragedy.

Worried that your teen will be the only one without alcohol at their party? Consider this: many parents expect that if an adult is present, alcohol will not be, don't assume others are comfortable with you serving their kids alcohol. Parents who serve alcohol to underage youth at parties create significant conflict for other parents who want their children to celebrate and have fun with their friends, but who want to protect them from the health risks of underage drinking and believe their children should respect the law. Parents who serve alcohol with underage children present, create unneeded stress for many teens. The situation separates friends from each other when they all want to be celebrating together.

Protect yourself by knowing the law!

- Youth convicted of alcohol or drug related offenses are not eligible for Federal education loans.
- It is illegal to sell, give, or supply alcohol to any person you suspect to be under 21 years old.
- Those that provide alcohol to minors are held legally responsible for those minors' alcohol-related delinquent acts, and any injuries or deaths that result from that minors' acts.
- Unless a minor is in the privacy of his own home and the alcohol was provided by his or her legal guardian, it is illegal for that minor to have alcohol in his or her possession.
- If a minor leaves the home after consuming alcohol, the legal guardian then becomes legally responsible for any of that minor's actions.
- It is illegal to sell, dispense, or give alcohol to an intoxicated person.

Support Alcohol Free Graduation Parties

Erin Gavin, Certified Prevention Specialist

The Linn County Underage Drinking Coalition, in collaboration with the Linn County Partnership on Substance Abuse, is sponsoring a county wide social marketing campaign this graduation season. The goal of the project is to get community members to support and/or host alcohol free parties for graduating seniors. We also hope to change the social norm that graduation parties and alcohol go “hand-in-hand”.

The graduation sign campaign started in 2007, and has been growing each year. The signs, which portray the message “We Support Alcohol Free Graduation Parties”, will hopefully reach even more people than the last year. If you would like a graduation sign of your own, or would like to help distribute signs around Linn County, please contact Erin Gavin at egavin@asac.us or 319-390-1884.

Graduation sign campaigns are also conducted in Benton, Jones and Jackson counties. Please contact your local ASAC office for more information or email info@asac.us.

How Would a Social Host Ordinance Affect You?

Jennifer Hussman, Certified Prevention Specialist

The Linn County Supervisors are considering an ordinance that would hold adults responsible for knowingly allowing or permitting underage persons to gather and drink alcoholic beverages on property they own or control. When adults knowingly provide a place for illegal activity to occur it is known as “social hosting” an underage drinking gathering. The current Iowa social host liability law holds a person civilly liable only if there is death or injury due to making the alcohol available to underage persons.

The ordinance under consideration is intended as preventative measure before a death or injury and will serve as a deterrent to those considering purposefully turning a blind eye to underage drinking. The ordinance also sends a strong message to the community that it is not acceptable for adults to blatantly allow or encourage underage drinking.

This type of Social Host law has reduced the number of underage drinking parties, teen drinking, teen binge drinking, and youth drinking and driving. The law will also help to create a healthier and safer community.

Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation Grant Awards

ASAC is pleased to announce that the agency was the recipient of three grants from the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation’s Spring Grant Cycle.

Road to Recovery Project- \$4,800

A Van Nostrand Fund for Health- Related Activities grant will provide evening transportation through the Neighborhood Transportation System (NTS) for Heart of Iowa families to attend community support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Ala-teen, Alanon, Narcotics Anonymous, Moms Off Meth, and Waypoint’s Domestic Violence Support Group.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis Prevention Project - \$4,500

The White Cross Society Fund will provide HIV, AIDS and hepatitis educational programming, testing and immunizations for Heart of Iowa clients. The activities will be provided on-site by Linn County Public Health.

Hispanic Outreach - \$7,500

Through a Community Fund Grant, ASAC’s Prevention Services will conduct a community assessment of substance abuse prevention needs and provide prevention information at events, presentations, and through social marketing activities. The project will coordinate activities through a coalition of other community members who are working with the Hispanic community.

Introducing *In The Rooms* On-line Social Networking Site for the Recovery Community

Join *In The Rooms* - the Web’s newest and most comprehensive social networking site for the worldwide recovery community. *In The Rooms* provides resources for people seeking help or treatment, for people in recovery, and for friends, family and allies of those in recovery. You can join on-line meetings and affinity groups, browse the library for articles, connect with other resources for recovery, and take an active role in promoting recovery. Go to <http://www.intherooms.com/>.

Prevention Works!

Get Stuck on This! - By Jaimen Pangborn, Prevention Specialist

Around graduation time alcohol consumption rises as alcohol is bought and provided for high school parties. This is an obvious problem in the community for many reasons and Springville High School students decided to participate in a national reminder not to provide for minors.

At the end of April Springville High School TA-DA (Teens Against Drugs and Alcohol) students participated in Sticker Shock at Casey's General Store in Springville Iowa. After receiving permission from store managers, students placed pink heart stickers on cases of alcohol that stated "If you love them, don't provide for them." The stickers also had additional facts and reminders about the risks of providing for minors. Maggie Ray, a high school junior stated "I hope people realize what they are doing when they provide for kids, hopefully these stickers will catch their attention."



Elementary Students Wish High School Students a Safe Prom Weekend

By Erin Gavin, Certified Prevention Specialist

As part of the Safe Weekend Campaign for the local high school prom weekends, local elementary schools created large banners with the message "Please be safe this weekend. We care about you" which were hung in the high schools where a large majority of the students will attend in the future. The Cleveland Elementary School's banner went to Jefferson High School, Kenwood Elementary's banner was hung at Kennedy High School, Arthur Elementary's banner was hung at Washington High School, St. Joe's Elementary's banner was hung at Xavier High school, and Linn Grove Elementary's banner was hung at Linn-Mar High School.

This project was to remind the high school students that the entire community cares about their safety during this special weekend and also that younger students really look to them to make smart choices. This activity was sponsored by the Linn County Underage Drinking Coalition.

Kick Butts Day Carnival at Marion High School

By Amy Smith, Certified Prevention Specialist

The Kick Butts Day Carnival made a positive impact on the community! The Take Charge/JEL students from Marion High School completed this event as part of the JCAP Grant they received from JEL. Kick Butts Day is a nationally known day for students to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco and combat Big Tobacco's lies. These JEL students decided to promote this day in a fun and creative way by hosting a carnival at their high school targeted to elementary and middle school students in their school district and the Marion community. In addition one of the local news stations covered the event which made it known throughout the community. At this carnival, the JEL students used fun games to inform parents and other students about tobacco through games, prizes, and food. For example, the "Cake Walk" had names of various ingredients in cigarettes on the walking squares and another game called "It's A Draw" had students try to trace their friend/parent in less than 10 seconds to represent that someone dies every 10 seconds from a tobacco related illness; it was a very interactive carnival with many visuals. There was very positive feedback from parents and their children. They really appreciated how the games and information booths conveyed the dangers of tobacco to their children. Some of the middle school students are now even more excited to get involved with JEL when they are in high school. This was the first year Marion JEL was able to hold a carnival. This event was made possible thanks to the JCAP Grant from JEL.