

PRIDE Coalition Keeps Glen Cove Safe! Meet at Page One for 2011-12

Community leaders working together to plan for success

On Oct. 4, the PRIDE Project Coalition met at Page One Restaurant for their first planning meeting of the 2011-2012 school year. Celebrating their hard earned accomplishments over the past year, each committee chair presented their outcomes from 2010-2011 and revealed their plans for the current school year. "Entering Year 8 of our DFC funding, our attention is focused on building a Sustainable Coalition - something we have made great strides toward during this past year," stated Georgie Connet, SAFE strategic planner.

SAFE Inc. is committed to eliminating teen alcohol use in Glen Cove. Through a combination of prevention, education, and law enforcement efforts, SAFE Inc. combats the devastating effects that can result from underage drinking and drug use in order to build a safer Glen Cove. In 2004, and again in 2008, SAFE, Inc. received a Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, making it one of only 224 agencies nationwide to be so awarded. The PRIDE Project Coalition is overseen by SAFE's Board of Directors and co-chaired by Executive Director Dr. Sharon E. Harris and Glen Cove School District Health Educator Anthony Gallo.

Made up of 12 sectors, the PRIDE Coalition is truly a community collaboration. Divided into four main committees - Parents, Community, School & Youth - each establishes their own role in how they will work together to accomplish the goals of the Coalition. The meeting was well-attended, providing a cross section of the Glen Cove



From left, top row: Paula Castiglia, PRIDE project coordinator; Michael Estabillo, SAFE administrative assistant; Reverend William Wendler, SAFE board member and community committee member; Berhang, SAFE board member and school committee member; Denise Kiernan, school committee chair; Larry Fischer, SAFE board treasurer; Tony Gallo, coalition co-chair. From left, bottom row: Councilman Tony Jimenez, community committee chair; Melissa Tierney, youth committee co-chair; Georgie Connet, SAFE board chair and strategic planner; Dr. Sharon Harris, SAFE executive director and coalition co-chair; Deneen Jackson, parent committee member; Mary Cooper, SAFE board member and school committee member.

community, including representation from youth serving agencies, the Glen Cove BID, the City Council, Glen Cove Senior Center, the Northshore Clergy, and the Glen Cove

School District. SAFE, Inc.'s Board of Directors was also in attendance, each long-term supporters of the Coalition.

"In life, you take the time and make the time for things that matter," stated Dr. Joseph Laria, superintendent of the Glen Cove School District, expressing the devotion of himself and his staff to the Coalition. "Community service is the rent we pay for occupying space in America. Now, more than ever, we need to come together as a family in Glen Cove. Each of us is a ripple of hope, and when we come together we become a tidal wave."

Perhaps a tidal wave of change is the most accurate analogy for the Coalition's history of accomplishments. With the support of local agencies, the Coalition has been successful in increasing the enforcement of underage drinking laws and Social Host law, implementing numerous public education campaigns, holding community events that serve as a platform for drug prevention services, and increasing youth services during long summer days. Each Coalition member contributes to these environmental strategies, strengthening the impact of prevention serv-

ices in Glen Cove. "We have an overwhelming amount of community support," commented Council Tony Jimenez, chair of the coalition's community committee.

Perhaps what makes the Coalition's impact so strong is the fact that many of the members are Glen Cove residents themselves. "I am proud to call Glen Cove my home," stated Tony Gallo, PRIDE coalition co-chair. "We live in a challenging time, and many of our youth are struggling. We need to get our youth to believe in themselves."

This may seem like a tall order, but the coalition is confident in their capability to change social norms. "It is not about what has not sustained," stated Denise Kiernan, school committee chair. "It is about how we can improve upon what we have done. We are prepared to take everything we've done to the next level."

For more information regarding SAFE, Inc. and the PRIDE Coalition, or to view SAFE Inc.'s Public Service Announcement, visit www.safeglencove.org. Want to follow the PRIDE Coalition on Facebook? Find them at <http://www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition>.

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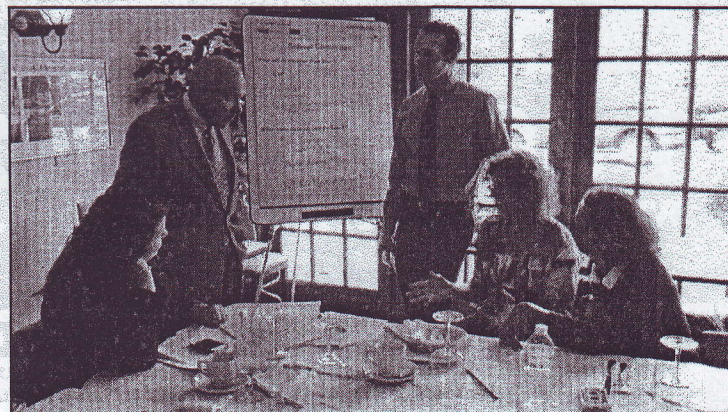


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The PRIDE Coalition School Committee plans for the 2011-2012 School year. From left: Denise Kiernan, school committee chair; Dr. Joseph Laria, Glen Cove School District superintendent; Tony Gall, coalition co-chair; Mary Berhang, SAFE board member and school committee member; Mary Cooper, SAFE board member and school committee member.