

SAFE Rides for Glen Cove Teens

SAFE's PRIDE Coalition & Student Lifeline Work to Keep Teens Safe

If you have a teen driver in your life, you have most likely worried about the potential risks young drivers are faced with. SAFE, Inc. knows the dangers that drinking and driving can pose and are dedicated to providing teens with a safe alternative when faced with a driver who is under the influence.

According to the 2010 Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment, underage alcohol use is a serious problem in Glen Cove. A research tool designed to measure the risks faced by youth and teens in our community, this survey was administered to students grades 6,8,10 & 12. The results revealed that the rates for underage use of alcohol are above national norms, with 25% of students reporting taking part in binge drinking. Students reported a lower perception of risk for alcohol use along with a perception that "everyone is doing it", which may lead to internal pressure to be like "everyone" and use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. Most high school Seniors report that it is very easy for them to obtain alcohol products, with drinking and driving rates as high as 20% among this grade level – a growing area of concern for our community.

SAFE is dedicated to reducing the drinking and driving epidemic amongst underage teens. With the deadly consequences that underage drinking brings, SAFE's PRIDE Coalition has dedicated themselves to finding a solution. Recently, the Coalition teamed up with Student Lifeline, a local organization that works to reduce the risks of underage drinking and driving. Together, they have gained support for the distribution of Student Lifeline cards, providing free cab rides for teens who need to get home safe when in a high risk situation.

"When a teen who has a Student Lifeline card needs a ride, they can be assured that



Members of the Glen Cove High School Junior class pose with their newly acquired Student Lifeline SAFE Rides cards.

they have a safe way of getting home," reported PRIDE Coalition Co-Chair and SAFE Executive Director Sharon Harris. "Student Lifeline cards are a much needed alternative to riding with a driver who has been drinking. This card could save their life."

Since 1988, Student Lifeline has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxi, as well as ancillary emergency ride materials, to schools. Glen Cove was indeed the very first community on Long Island to adopt the Emergency Ride Program. Student Lifeline continues to provide Emergency Rides for youngsters who are seeking to escape dangerous and uneventful circumstances. The leading cause of injury and death for this age group remains as drunk driving. Student Lifeline also provide Emergency Rides to battered and abused women and children to shelters, threatening date avoidance, vehicular breakdown/accident rides, etc. Over 4 million students have been supplied with the Student Lifeline

Card Program. Mr. Kullen has done everything possible to publicize and distribute these potentially life-saving instruments, and we hope and trust that the Glen Cove and surrounding communities bring recognition to this wonderful organization and this very fine gentleman."

The Lifeline card is valid from anywhere on Long Island and within a 50 mile radius, to get someone home in danger. Posters are being displayed in public and private high-traffic venues to give greater recognition to those sponsors who have supported this effort. Cards are to be distributed throughout the community at local agencies and events.

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.

Card Program."

"The Glen Cove Community has always been in the forefront of these issues of safety, we applaud their cooperation and generosity in sponsoring this program," states Richard Signarino, President of Student Lifeline. "We also would like to make a special mentioning with regard to Thomas Kullen, Vice President of Government Relations at King Kullen stores, who has been instrumental in the distribution of literally millions of Lifeline Cards at his various supermarket lo-

To obtain a Student Lifeline SAFE Rides Card or for teen or parent resources, contact the SAFE office at (516) 676-2008. For more information regarding Student Lifeline, visit www.studentlifeline.com. For more information regarding SAFE, Inc and the PRIDE Coalition, or to view SAFE Inc.'s Public Service Announcement, visit www.safeglen Cove.org. Want to follow the PRIDE Coalition on Facebook? Find us at <http://www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition>.



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