



**For Immediate Release
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Red Ribbon Week 2011

Glen Cove Community Celebrates Living Drug Free

SAFE, Inc. was established in 1981 to combine the strengths of the public and private sectors in the Glen Cove community to provide alcohol and drug prevention services. This organization is the only substance abuse prevention agency in Glen Cove, emphasizing substance abuse intervention and education. In 2004, and again in 2009, SAFE received Drug-Free Communities Support Program funds to support its Coalition and the mission of eliminating alcohol and substance abuse in Glen Cove.

The SAFE Coalition annually celebrates and promotes Red Ribbon Week within the Glen Cove School District. Red Ribbon Week is a national drug awareness campaign aimed at addressing the importance of substance abuse prevention.

SAFE Board of Directors and Coalition volunteers showed their support by participating in Red Ribbon celebrations in each of the District's elementary schools and Finley Middle School. Students from Deasy, Connolly, Landing, and Gribbin schools embraced the theme of living a healthy, drug free lifestyle and created posters depicting their interpretation of living drug free.

Each elementary school held a special assembly to kick off Red Ribbon Week where students wore red ribbons and learned about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. The 8th grade students at Finley Middle School participated in a poster contest in their health classes, and all Middle School students enjoyed presentations by Coalition members of the Glen Cove Police Department in their Physical Education classes. Sgt. Chris Ortiz, Detective Gerald Williams, and PO David Leon spoke to the students about the risks of using drugs and the important role that decision making plays in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students listened intently while the officers provided real-life stories from their extensive policing experience and students were given the opportunity to ask the officers questions about drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

Working together to spread the word of prevention, the coalition collaborated with all sectors of the community including SAFE's staff, Mayor Suozzi, Glen Cove School District's Superintendent, Dr. Laria & staff, PTA, Glen Cove Inter-Agency Council and the North Shore Clergy. Students in the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club program celebrated Red Ribbon Week by working together to create a drug free banner and wearing Red Ribbons to symbolize their pride. "Research demonstrates the need for early prevention of drug and alcohol use. We are very proud of all the youth who participated in the celebration." stated Georgie Connett, SAFE Board Chair.

For more information regarding SAFE, Inc and the PRIDE Coalition, contact the SAFE Inc. office at (516) 676-2008. To view SAFE Inc.'s Public Service Announcement and additional Red Ribbon Week photos, visit www.safeglencove.org. If you are interested in following the PRIDE Coalition on Face book you can find us listed under the Glen Cove PRIDE Project Coalition.