

SAFE'S PRIDE COALITION

Glen Cove Families Take the SAFE Homes Pledge - PRIDE Coalition Attends Open School Nights

On Monday, Sept. 13, the PRIDE Project Coalition's Community Committee announced the official launch on the SAFE Homes Campaign. During the month of September, PRIDE Coalition volunteers attended Glen Cove School District Open School nights to advertise the campaign and raise awareness in the community about the importance of safeguarding their home from the dangers of underage drinking and illicit drug use. Parents lined up to take the pledge, enthusiastic to see that SAFE Inc. and the PRIDE Coalition are taking action for this important cause. "This is happening in our community", said one concerned parent. "Parents are hosting alcohol to kids - it needs to stop."

When it comes to underage drinking in Glen Cove, the numbers don't lie. The 2010 Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment indicated that underage alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug 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 and 12. The results revealed that the rates reported for using alcohol are above national norms, with 25 percent 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 and tobacco products and drinking and driving rates are as high as 20 percent among this



Brenda Garcia, Parent Committee member; Anthony Gallo, Coalition co-chair; Wendy Sanchez, Parent Committee chair; Dr. Sharon Harris, Coalition co-chair; Paula Castiglia, Coalition coordinator; Denise Kiernan, School Committee chair.

grade level. Overall, students reported easier drug availability in 2010 compared to 2008.

The SAFE Homes campaign is designed to eliminate substance abuse from Glen Cove homes and raise awareness about underage alcohol and drug use. Each participant receives a SAFE Homes window cling to display on the front of

their home to show their support of the SAFE Homes pledge. Just as important as the pledge is the opportunity it provides parents in Glen Cove - an opportunity to speak as a family about the important issues of drugs and alcohol. This pledge encourages families to talk about their expectations regarding drug and alcohol use and allows for open



communication, something that is key when discussing a potentially life-threatening topic.

Through a combination of prevention, education, and law enforcement efforts, the SAFE Inc. PRIDE Project Coalition remains committed to combating the devastating effects that can result from underage drinking and drug use in order to build a safer Glen Cove. The need for prevention strategies and consistent law enforcement of underage consumption of alcohol and sales has been an ongoing goal for SAFE Inc.'s PRIDE Project Coalition. 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. In addition, the Coalition works in conjunction with the Glen Cove Police Department under a grant for the Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws. The PRIDE Project Coalition is made up of parents, police personnel, educators, and health care, financial and business professionals and is overseen by SAFE's Board of Directors.

For more information regarding SAFE, Inc and the PRIDE Coalition, participating in the SAFE Homes Campaign, or to sign a copy of the SAFE Homes pledge, contact the SAFE Inc. office at 676-2008. To view SAFE Inc.'s Public Service Announcement, visit www.safeglencove.org.