

SAFE'S PRIDE COALITION

PRIDE Coalition Youth Committee Bakes for a Cause - Youth Members Celebrate Thanksgiving by Giving Back

During this holiday season, the PRIDE Coalition Youth Committee is celebrating responsibly – by providing community service to the Glen Cove community. Inspired by their newly adopted campaign “100 Better Things To Do Than Drugs,” the Youth Committee members have decided to spend the holiday season giving back.

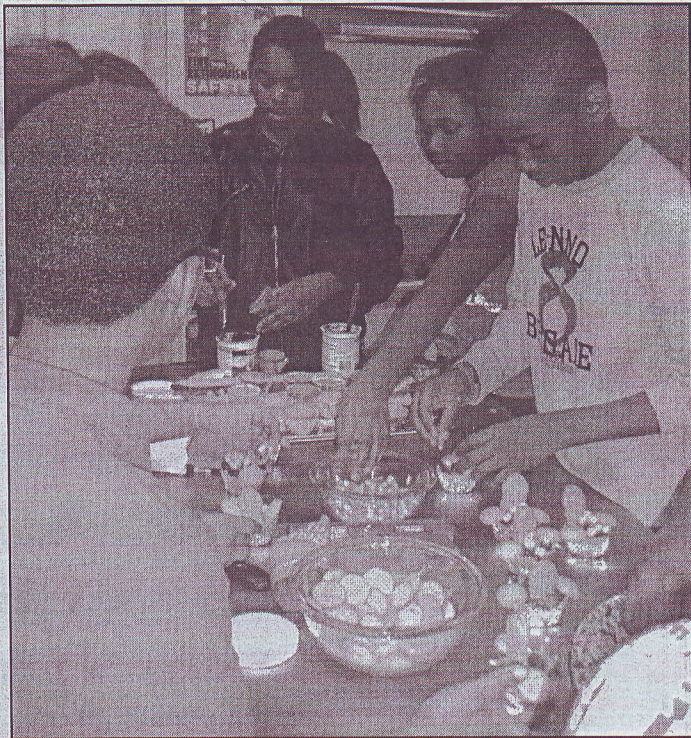
Committee members joined together at the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club to bake desserts for a local Thanksgiving feast celebration. Enthusiastic at the prospect of helping to lend a hand in their own community, the students baked and decorated over 40 Thanksgiving-themed cupcakes for the following day's festivities at St. Patrick's Church.

“During this season, it is wonderful to have our members give back to their community and make another person's holiday a little more special,” stated Youth Committee Co-Chair and Executive Director of the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club Melissa Tierney.

“Our Youth Committee members are learning the importance of community service. What a better place to start making a difference than their own community,” stated Antoinette Edmonston, a Youth Committee advisor and program director at the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club. “It is rewarding for them to know that their efforts matter and that they are making a difference for someone.”

In 2004, and again in 2008, SAFE, Inc. received a Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy. This grant funds the PRIDE Project Coalition in Glen Cove, a community collaboration established to eliminate underage alcohol and drug use in Glen Cove, while reducing idle time among youth and increasing public awareness, education, and law enforcement efforts.

The Youth Committee is one of four PRIDE Coalition committees serving Glen Cove to eliminate underage alcohol and substance abuse in the community. This past Spring, the Youth Committee launched their “100 Better Things To Do Than Drugs” campaign in which they developed a list of 100 activities that youth can partake in as an alternative to drugs and alcohol. This year, the Youth



PRIDE Youth Committee members decorate over 30 cupcakes for donation.

Committee is promoting this campaign by taking part in these activities to promote healthy lifestyles and choices, particularly completing community service to make Glen Cove a safer place to live and grow.

The Youth Committee members have certainly embraced their opportunity to lend a helping hand. When asked why they choose to spend their afternoon helping someone else, the youth members were enthusiastic about the prospect of helping someone else. “There are people in Glen Cove that are less fortunate,” stated one Youth Committee member. “It's nice to know you're helping someone,” stated another.

Inspired to make more change, the

Youth Committee is currently organizing a bake sale at an upcoming local youth Basketball Tournament at the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club to raise money to purchase holiday gifts for children in need. “Every kid deserves a gift around the holidays,” stated one youth volunteer. “I hope we raise enough money to buy a lot of gifts.”

For more information regarding SAFE, Inc, the PRIDE Coalition, and PRIDE's Youth Committee, contact the SAFE Inc. office at 676-2008. To view SAFE Inc.'s Public Service Announcement, visit www.safeglencove.org. Interested in following the PRIDE Coalition on Facebook? Find us listed under the Glen Cove PRIDE Project Coalition.



PRIDE Youth Committee members pose with their creations, along with Melissa Tierney, Youth Committee co-chair and GCBGC executive director; Antoinette Edmonston, Youth Committee advisor and GCBGC program director; Paula Castiglia, PRIDE Project Coalition coordinator.