

Glen Cove Family Awareness Day at Morgan Park a Big Success!

Glen Cove Families Join Together to Celebrate Their Unity

Families joined together at Morgan Park for SAFE Inc. PRIDE Coalition's 3rd Annual Family Awareness Day. Funded by the Glen Cove Community Development Agency and in collaboration with family and youth serving agencies, this year's celebration offered parents and children a fun-filled day in the sun complete with food, games, prizes, and music.

The PRIDE Coalition is a community collaboration, working together to eliminate alcohol and substance abuse among youth and adults in Glen Cove. Through collaboration with Glen Cove's Interagency Council, Family Awareness Day was established to provide Glen Cove families with a safe, educational family experience in a venue that encourages communication between youth and their parents regarding underage alcohol and drug use.

Based on the goal of increasing family awareness through education, over 350 Family Awareness Day participants were provided with literature and resources regarding substance abuse, underage drinking, and Social Host Laws. Information about some of Glen Cove's most valuable family-focused resources were provided by volunteers from organizations including the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club, The Glen Cove Youth Bureau, the Girl Scouts, Glen Cove Kiwanas Club, and Every Child Matters.

"Family Awareness Day is an important event for our community. I thank SAFE Inc. and the PRIDE Project Coalition for giving us the opportunity to bring families together and educate them on the dangers of substance abuse. This is a wonderful educational experience that allows us to



Morgan Leigh, Glen Cove After 3 group leader; Shea Levin, Every Child Matters; Sharon Harris, SAFE Inc. executive director; Pat Amoroso, Girl Scout leader; Mary Cooper, SAFE board member; Reverend William Wendler, North Shore clergy member; Councilman Tony Jimenez, Community Committee chair; Mayor Ralph Suozzi; Georgie Connet, SAFE board chair; Tim Tenke, city councilman; Sean Dwyer, city councilman; Paula Castiglia, PRIDE Project Coalition coordinator; Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, city councilwoman. Bottom row: Mozelle White, Glen Cove After 3 Site supervisor; Wendy Sanchez, Parent Committee chair.

open up and maintain the channels of communication between parents and children and to let them know that our community offers them an extensive support system," stated Mayor Suozzi, who presented SAFE Inc. with a Certificate of Recognition, commending the hard work and dedication of the agency and the PRIDE Coalition.

"Recognizing the need for increased family involvement with our children in Glen Cove, the PRIDE Coalition committee members, SAFE, Inc. staff and local agencies created a Family Awareness Day to remember," stated Georgie Connett, board chair of SAFE, Inc. and strategic planner for the Coalition.

Children enjoyed face-painting by the

coalition's youth committee "Speak Up, Get Heard" and the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club and some even sported temporary hair color provided by Every Child Matters. Carnival games were played by all, and children lined up for a chance to enjoy the Jelly Bean Bounce.

(continued on page 15)

Family Awareness *(continued from page 10)*

Volunteers from the Glen Cove Fire Department and EMS hosted a touch-a-truck event where youths received an up-close, real-life look at the exciting world of Fire Engines and EMS trucks, including trying on some equipment and climbing in the front seat to pose for a picture. Refreshments were served throughout the afternoon, including hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, and snow cones. Beverages were provided by retailers including Frank's Beverage, Staples, and Stop N Shop. Raffle prizes were provided by several local businesses and organizations including The Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club, The Glen Cove Youth Bureau, The Glen Cove Parks & Recreation Department, North Shore Farms, The Rising Tide, Rita's Ices, and Forest Pizza. Overall, Family Awareness Day was a memorable day for all in attendance.

For more information regarding SAFE, Inc. the PRIDE Coalition, and photos of Family Awareness Day 2010, visit www.safeglen Cove.org or call the SAFE, Inc office at 676-2008



Shaney Wells, PRIDE Youth Committee member was providing face painting to the event's attendees.



Melissa Tierney, Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club, executive director; Franca Trunzo, Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club director of operations.



Attendees enjoy sno-cones, provided by Authentic Party Pushcarts.



Paula Castiglia, Pride Project Coalition coordinator and Sharon Harris, SAFE Inc. executive director enjoy the festivities.



Youth received goody bags filled with age appropriate prevention materials, including coloring books and PRIDE Coalition bracelets.