



**For Immediate Release
October 17, 2011**

**Contact: Paula Castiglia
PRIDE Project Coalition**

New York Highway Safety Traffic Symposium
SAFE, Inc. and the Glen Cove Police Department Present to Attendees

On October 17th, members of SAFE's PRIDE Project Coalition's Community Committee presented at the New York Highway Safety Annual Fall Symposium in Hauppauge, New York. The Symposium is organized through the joint sponsorship of the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, the New York State Association of Traffic Safety Boards and the New York State STOP-DWI Association, Inc. along with state and local safety partners interested in the promotion of safety and injury prevention.

The Symposium attracts more than 350 local, state, Federal and private agency professionals devoted to reducing deaths and injuries related to traffic crashes. Participants exchanged information on current activities and developments designed to promote injury prevention.

"The Community Committee of the Coalition is Chaired by Councilman Tony Jiminez and is known for its Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws initiatives funded by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services and we are pleased to be recognized by the invitation to present our achievements" stated Georgie Connett, SAFE's Board Chair.

Sgt. Chris Ortiz of the Glen Cove Police Department and Dr. Sharon Harris, Executive Director of SAFE, Inc. presented a cadre of collaborative activities the Committee has initiated regarding alcohol and substance abuse prevention, education, enforcement, and prosecution. The presentation highlighted statistics on underage drinking in Glen Cove per the 2010 Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment administered to students in 6, 8, 10 and 12th grades as well as Enforcement Details that include vendor compliance and social hosting. The 2010 Bach-Harrison results revealed that 20% of our High School Seniors reported either driving a car after drinking or riding in a car with a driver who had been drinking. This was the motivation in developing the SAFE Rides program, a free program where students can avoid potential danger by calling for a ride home rather than take the chance of driving with a peer who has been drinking.

Student education is an important part of the Coalition's prevention efforts. Such public education initiatives include:

The "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" campaign
The Social Host Hotline
SAFE Homes
SAFE Downtown
Police and Communities Together 360

The “Underage Drinking is NOT a Minor Problem!” Campaign
The SAFE Rides program, in collaboration with Student Lifeline

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.

For more information regarding SAFE, Inc and the PRIDE Coalition, or to view SAFE Inc.’s Public Service Announcement, visit www.safeglencove.org. Want to follow the PRIDE Coalition on Facebook? Find us at <http://www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition> .