

SAFE'S Pride Project Coalition



Michael Estabillo, SAFE administrative assistant, Councilman Tony Jimenez, SAFE coalition community committee chair, Fran Koehler, Downtown BID/SAFE coalition community committee member, Reverend W. Wendler, SAFE Board of Directors/SAFE coalition community committee member, Mary Merhang, SAFE Board of Directors/SAFE coalition school committee member, Robin Mead, SAFE social worker/parent committee member, Larry Fischer, SAFE treasurer/parent committee member, Councilman Tony Gallo, SAFE coalition co-chair, Melissa Tierney, youth committee co-chair, Denise Kiernan, SAFE coalition school committee chair

PRIDE Coalition Keeps Glen Cove Safe

*Community leaders
work together to
plan for success*

Last month, the PRIDE Project Coalition met at Page One Restaurant for their second strategic planning meeting. Celebrating their hard-earned accomplishments over the past year, each committee chair presented their outcomes from 2011 and revealed their plans for the next school year.

"Entering the ninth year of our DFC funding, our attention is focused on building a sustainable coalition – something we have made great strides toward during this past year," stated Georgie Connet, SAFE strategic planner.

SAFE Inc. is committed to eliminating teen alcohol use in Glen Cove. Through a combination of prevention, education, and law enforcement efforts, SAFE Inc. combats the devastating effects that can result from underage drinking and drug use in order to build a safer Glen Cove.

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. The PRIDE Project Coalition is overseen by SAFE's board of directors and co-chaired by Executive Director Dr. Sharon E. Harris and Glen Cove School District health educator Anthony Gallo.

Made up of 12 sectors, the PRIDE

Coalition is truly a community collaboration. Divided into four main committees – Parents, Community, School and Youth – each establishes their own role in how they will work together to accomplish the goals of the coalition.

The meeting was well-attended, providing a cross section of the Glen Cove community, including representation from youth serving agencies, the Glen Cove BID, the city council, Glen Cove Senior Center, the youth-serving North Shore clergy, and the Glen Cove School District. Members of SAFE, Inc.'s board of directors were also in attendance, each one a long-term supporter of the coalition.

With the support of local agencies, the coalition has been successful in increasing the enforcement of underage drinking laws and the Social Host law, implementing numerous public education campaigns, holding community events that serve as a platform for drug prevention services, and increasing youth services during long summer days. Each coalition member contributes to these environmental strategies, strengthening the impact of prevention services in Glen Cove.

"We have an overwhelming amount of community support," commented Councilman Tony Jimenez, chair of the coalition's community committee.

For more information regarding SAFE, Inc and the PRIDE Coalition, or to view SAFE Inc.'s Public Service Announcement, visit www.safeglencove.org and www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition.