

July 2013

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# Glen Cove

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# Life



Don't be a party to  
teenage drinking.  
It's against  
the law.

**PARENTS  
WHY NOT LOSE  
THE MUSH!**  
Don't be a party  
to teenage drinking.  
It's against the law.  
Support children in  
Law Enforcement Department  
at 212-676-1000  
PLEASE JOIN IN  
**FAMILY AWARENESS DAY**  
Saturday June 17th 2013  
Meyers Park 1:00 - 4:00 pm



# Making a Difference

**PRIDE Coalition Fights Alcohol and Drug Use by Local Youth**

# Making a Difference With PRIDE

*SAFE is committed to fighting alcohol and drug use by youth in Glen Cove.*

by *Laura Lane*  
Community contributor

**S**AFE, Inc.'s PRIDE Coalition, was created in 2003 with community volunteers, local government and agencies to change community norms about alcohol and substance abuse in the Glen Cove community.

The only substance abuse prevention agency in Glen Cove, SAFE, garnered community support to educate local youth and their families to coordinate prevention and intervention programs and services. The PRIDE Coalition slowly evolved into a recognizable community resource for drug and alcohol prevention, intervention and education through strategic planning and standardized needs assessments which helped to guide SAFE's goals and objectives. Since 2004, SAFE, has been receiving Federal Drug Free Communities Support Program funds to support its Coalition.

"For ten years we have been on a mission to try to eliminate drug and alcohol abuse in the community," said Safe Board Chair Georgie Connett. "There have been a lot of positive results from the hard work of SAFE and the PRIDE Project Coalition. It takes all sectors of the community to do this work."

The Coalition targets youth at risk of becoming substance abusers, their parents and the Glen Cove community at large. It is co-chaired by Councilman Tony Gallo and SAFE Executive Director, Dr. Sharon Harris.

SAFE is composed of four Committees: Community, School, Youth and Parent.

The Community Committee serves as a think tank to examine needs assessment survey data and make recommendations. It implements media campaigns regarding underage binge drinking, the enforcement of underage drinking laws and the Social Host Law and helps to implement the City Prevention Mission Statement.

Under the leadership of Chairman Councilman Tony Jimenez, Glen Cove became the first municipality in Nassau County to successfully draft and codify a Social Host Law. This sweeping legislation makes it illegal to allow any person under the age of 21 to consume alcohol in the household.

Other initiatives accomplished by the committee include



**The SAFE, Inc. staff at a Town Hall meeting. The organization is a group made up of volunteers, local government and other agencies. Over the years, they have launched a number of campaigns with the goal of educating the youth of Glen Cove and their families on alcohol and substance abuse.**

Photo courtesy of SAFE, Inc.

Project 21, which polices details to identify vendors who serve to minors and Shoulder Tap Policing Details. Enforcement efforts have also focused on adults providing alcohol to minors.

"We decided to conduct these details because the Drug Free Grant that SAFE received indicated that it was a proven strategy that we could employ to combat underage drinking," said Glen Cove Police Lt. Christopher Ortiz, Community Committee member.

The Community Committee has also implemented various prevention awareness campaigns including: the Parents Who Host Lose the Most Campaign, which provided educational workshops for parents outlining the new Social Host Law and the distribution of numerous materials including flyers, stickers and posters throughout the city and school district. The Lock Up Your Med's Campaign, which is a collaboration with local pharmacies launched through the senior center to help eliminate one of the newer abuses among youth, prescription drugs. Other initiatives include SAFE Downtown and SAFE Glen Cove under the direction of Francene Koehler, executive director



of the Downtown Business Improvement District, and SAFE Homes campaigns. These initiatives were implemented by the Coalition to promote responsible business practices pertaining to the sale of alcohol and provide an opportunity for families to openly pledge to not host to minors. The campaign involved an agreement between homeowners/businesses with SAFE whereby they pledged not to serve alcohol to minors. Each home/business that signed the pledge was given a SAFE Home/Business sticker to announce their commitment.

The School Committee utilizes survey data to identify and provide prevention activities and programs for youth; expand and enhance the health education curriculum to address needs assessment data; enforce the district's tobacco policy and drug-free school zones; participate in assessing and analyzing root causes of substance abuse problems in the community and implementation of evidence based prevention programs.

It is chaired by Director of Health and Physical Education for the Glen Cove School District Chairs the School Committee, Denise Kiernan. Representatives from the Nassau County District Attorney's office are brought in bi-annually to present their Choices and Consequences programs to high school junior and seniors before prom time.

Party Patrols is another initiative that SAFE has become involved in to help the youth of the community. It is one of sev-

eral ongoing policing initiatives utilized through a federal grant to stop underage drinking in Glen Cove. The Glen Cove Police have collaborated with SAFE and have been performing Party Patrols for the last four years and it has been successful.

Party Patrols generally occur during holidays like Halloween, events like graduation and the prom or other times of year like the summer when there is a possibility that children and teenagers may attempt to hold gatherings or parties.

"We put police officers out in plainclothes that have no other responsibilities for that shift except the Party Patrols," explained Ortiz. "There are usually two teams of two officers that go to the usual public available places like beaches and parks. In addition, we try to strategically put them out there during events like the holidays. They speak to other kids to find out what's going on."

The School Committee has also implemented National Red Ribbon Week, peer leadership programs such as Teens as Teachers and an anti-tobacco campaign working with the Nassau Project Coordinator for the Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island, Carol Meschkow. SAFE recently brought the We've Seen Enough Tobacco Marketing campaign to Glen Cove High School.

This year, the School Committee participated in the Great American Smoke-out, a day set aside annually for people to commit to quit smoking or at least to devise a plan to do so. The weeklong kick-off began with a review of all of the facts surrounding the dangers of tobacco marketing. Students then viewed the video, If Walls Could Talk and Changes, in their health classes. The films were tailored for young people showing the power of advertising and how this advertising can lead them to make a decision to start smoking without them even realizing it.

The Youth Committee strives to identify and provide prevention activities and programs for youth and participate in all planning activities regarding youth targeted to help reduce youth drug and alcohol use.

The Committee is co-Chaired by the Executive Director of the Glen Cove Youth Bureau, Arlene O'Dell and the Executive Director of the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club, Melissa Rhodes. There have been notable initiatives which include: National Drug Facts Week informational displays at the Middle and High Schools', Lights on After School at the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club to outreach to parents and disseminate drug and alcohol prevention materials. Also, the annual distribution of prevention, intervention and education materials at the Coalition's Annual Family Awareness Day held at Morgan Park in June.

The Parent Committee utilizes survey data to act as a bilingual parent resource for prevention, education, intervention and research on alcohol and substance abuse. Partnering with the Glen Cove School District's PTA Council, the committee has successfully implemented Parent University, which are free professional workshops for parents regarding needs assessment data on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. The committee participates in assessing and analyzing root causes of substance abuse problems in the community and helps develop, promote and attend the following Coalition activities and events: Annual Health and Fitness Fair, Family University, Red Ribbon Week

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Top: SAFE Glen Cove PRIDE Project Coalition teams up with the Junior Soccer League to at a Health & Fitness Fair.

Top right: A Parent University presentation on Bullying Prevention at Gribblin Elementary School.

Middle left: Glen Cove Schools reinforce SAFE's PRIDE Project's message of living a drug-free lifestyle during Red Ribbon Week each year.

Middle:PRIDE Project Coalition's School Committee and the Teens-As-Teachers Club participate in the "We've Seen Enough Tobacco Marketing" Campaign.

Bottom left: Nassau County Legislator Della DeRiggi-Whitton and Tony Jiminez of SAFE Inc.'s at SAFE's annual Family Awareness Day.

Bottom center: Glen Cove PRIDE Project Coalition's "Lock Up Your Meds" campaign.

Bottom right: Police Sgt. Christopher Ortiz, Ph.D. presented, "Bullying and the Legal Consequences," at a recent presentation.

Photos courtesy of SAFE, Inc.



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and SAFE Homes.

Every two years a Town Hall meeting is held where the results from the Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey, which has been administered by the Glen Cove School District since 2004 to students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12, are discussed. The survey assesses the use of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco and other drugs by Glen Cove youth. At the town hall meeting, this information is shared with an audience comprised of educators, community leaders, public officials, parents and youth. SAFE then moves forward with initiatives to help address the results of the survey.

The survey is used to gauge the effectiveness of the Coalition's efforts and to remain cognizant of the alcohol and substance abuse trends that need to be addressed. These efforts, coupled with ongoing strategic planning sessions guide the Coalition to achieve their goals and objectives. At the town hall meeting Dr. Bernard S. Gorman, Grant Evaluator and a research psychologist, presented the survey results using a Power Point presentation. This year's results indicated that the initiatives are working, but that there is still a great deal of work to be done in the prevention of underage drinking, marijuana and tobacco use.

In order to be successful, no matter how committed, an organization needs the cooperation of local leaders. Glen Cove's Mayor Ralph Suozzi has always supported SAFE. In a recent town hall meeting, Mayor Suozzi said that the Coalition and its accomplishments truly reflect the essence of community collaborations, which is the key to success for any grassroots change. The Mayor has been honorary Chair of the Coalition since taking office and is a former member of the Coalition's Parent Committee.

For further information on any SAFE, Inc. PRIDE Project Coalition and their initiatives contact Coalition Coordinator Aimee Abraham at 516-676-2008. SAFE Inc. is a nonprofit substance abuse education and prevention agency located in Glen Cove. Visit our website at [safeglen Cove.org](http://safeglen Cove.org) and follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition](http://facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition).



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