

# PRIDE Coalition Sets New Goals

SUBMITTED BY SAFE INC.

SAFE's PRIDE Project Coalition held their annual Sustainability Planning Meeting recently to address the implementation of environmental strategies for the upcoming year. The agency continues to be the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention agency in Glen Cove emphasizing education and abuse intervention.

The coalition is overseen by the board of directors of SAFE, and is co-chaired by former Councilman Tony Gallo and SAFE's Executive Director Dr. Sharon Harris. The coalition's four established committees (community, school, parent and youth) met as a full membership to review their work from the previous year and strategically plan to set goals for the upcoming year.

"SAFE initiated and supported the coalition for the last nine years under the auspices of a Drug-Free Communities Support program grant," said SAFE Board Chair Georgie Connett.

Connett maintained that the environmental strategies set in place are sustainable. Laws have been initiated and passed, community and school based services have thrived and needs assessments indicate a decrease in alcohol and substance use, but more work needs to be done.

"From inception, it has been the long-term sustainable goal to establish the coalition as a separate entity after the funding ends," said Connett, adding that in the process the coalition has been established as its own foundation. Much has been accomplished in this area as the foundation website and logo have been created, and the IRS 1023 form has been submitted for tax-exempt status. It is anticipated that the Town Hall meeting in April will serve as the venue to launch the foundation."



**A Sustainability Planning Meeting is held annually for the members of SAFE's PRIDE Project Coalition to discuss a strategy for the upcoming year. The members who attended this year included, top row from left: Ann Marie Gailius; Michael Estabillo; Caroline Quadrino; Denise Kiernan; Dr. Sharon Harris; Carol Waldman; Francine Koehler; Anthony Gallo. Bottom row from left: Laurent Caballero; Georgie Connett; Arlene O'Dell and Anthony Jimenez. (Photo courtesy of SAFE INC.)**

Jimenez, serves as a think tank to examine needs assessment data and to make recommendations with goals focused on education and communication and make recommendations and implement media campaigns regarding underage binge drinking, enforcement of underage drinking laws and social host law.

Community Committee members plan to continue their efforts to make the community aware of Project 21, an initiative designed to identify vendors who sell to minors. As in years past, the committee will increase public service announcements for educational purposes and share data with the community regarding efforts like the Glen Cove Police Hotline, where residents can call to report

by Denise Kiernan, director of health and athletics for the Glen Cove School District, expands and enhances health education curriculum to address Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) Survey findings and works to enforce the district's tobacco policy and drug-free school zones. Initiatives of the committee include implementation of evidence-based programs such as Tobacco Cessation, Athletes Helping Athletes, Family University, and Red Ribbon Week celebrations throughout the school district, which promote prevention activities geared around living a drug-free lifestyle for students.

Some committee members are teachers in the school district. They use their expertise to enhance the

the above mentioned survey. One of their main goals is to increase communication between school district administrators, staff and parents.

The Parent Committee, chaired by SAFE's bi-lingual outreach worker Laurent Caballero, acts as a bi-lingual parent resource for prevention, education, intervention and research on alcohol and drug abuse in Glen Cove. The committee is composed of PTA members, parents and civic organizations. They serve as a liaison with the PTA and are also active in assessing the causes of substance abuse problems in Glen Cove among the youth. It is the members of this committee that work to promote coalition activities like the Annual Health and Fitness fair, the Parent Universities and Red Ribbon Week.

In the upcoming year the Parent Committee plans to teach Spanish-speaking parents English in a comfortable setting and hope to get more parents to attend their meetings. Also they are in the process of finding more topics for additional Parent Universities led by the Coalition.

The Youth Committee, co-chaired by Melissa Rhodes, executive director of the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club and Arlene O'Dell, executive director of the Glen Cove Youth Bureau, also uses information gathered from the survey data that assesses the use of drugs and alcohol among Glen Cove youth to come up with prevention activities and programs that can help. They promoted and implemented the Annual Youth Substance Abuse Awareness Day and the "I've got 100 better things to do than drugs campaign" last year. Their goal this year is to reach out to as many younger children as possible to promote anti-smoking campaigns promoted by the Anti-Tobacco Action Coalition