

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GLEN COVE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH TOOK ACTION ON THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT TO ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

The Great American Smokeout (GASO) is an annual reminder that quitting smoking is critical for good health. Sadly, the most at-risk populations in New York haven't been able to quit on this day or any other. The use of Tobacco is still the leading cause of preventable disease and death killing nearly 24,000 New Yorkers every year and afflicting nearly 600,000 New Yorkers with serious disease directly attributable to their smoking.

The School Committee of the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition continued their partnership with the Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island (TACLI) on Thursday, November 17th at the Glen Cove High School. Student leaders mobilized together and manned an educational table to bring attention to their peers about the need to reduce their exposure to tobacco marketing and, to see an end to the sale of tobacco products at their trusted local pharmacies.

Coalition Liaison, Ashley Ferrufino, MHC, CASAC-T, conducts evidence-based Life Skills Training, a prevention education program on a regular basis for the school district. According to Ferrufino, "It is exciting to see youth step up and take initiative to end tobacco sales in pharmacies as a direct correlation to their education on avoiding destructive decisions".

"This year's GASO theme is "Quitting Like a Champion". To that end, it's very invigorating to see the students who we've watched grow over the last several years take the lead in educating their peers and adults about the dangers associated with this addiction. Pharmacies are Licensed health care facilities and unfortunately the sale of tobacco products send an incongruent message to our youth. It's imperative to reduce youth exposure to tobacco marketing at the point of sale and I am confident the Glen Cove youth will continue to advocate for change" said Carol Meschkow, Nassau Project Coordinator of TACLI.

Per the American Heart Association "the availability of tobacco products in pharmacies legitimize its use and falsely suggest pharmacists support tobacco consumption. Per Anthony Gallo, Coalition Co-Chair and Health Education teacher for the Glen Cove School District, "I couldn't be more proud as an educator and community leader to see our local youth take action on GASO in honor of those they care about".

For more information on the TACLI visit: www.breathefreely.org To get help quitting follow the icon for the NY New York State Smokers' Quitline or call 1-866-NY-QUITS.

For further information on SAFE, Inc and their initiatives contact SAFE at: 516-676-2008 or visit the website at www.safeglencove.org