

## **Press Release**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition coordinates prevention education workshop by Michael's Hope in celebration of National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week**

When it comes to teens and drugs it is all about choices and consequences. In honor of National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition's School Committee participated in a week long campaign by creating a program for students at Glen Cove Finley Middle School and Glen Cove High School (GCHS). The School Committee's efforts were targeted at arming students with the facts to help them make the right choices surrounding drugs and alcohol.

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week was originally launched in 2010 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse as a prevention awareness campaign aimed at educating youth on the facts surrounding drugs and alcohol. "The school committee understands the importance early on regarding the truth behind drinking and drugging. Teens often don't understand the progressive nature of substance abuse and the long term effects of early use" stated Ashley Ferruffino, SAFE Glen Cove Coalition Liaison.

The campaign included the announcements of drug facts every morning during the traditional morning announcements. During health classes at Finley and at GCHS students in health classes played the WreckEd Card game. An educational game that is designed to teach teens to think more introspectively about their decisions regarding drugs and alcohol. This program not only encourages youth to look at their own behavior, but also to reach out and look out for their friends who may be making the wrong unhealthy decisions.

This year GCHS Students had the opportunity to listen to a nonprofit organization named Michael's HOPE. According to Paul Maffetone the founder of Michael's Hope, the goal of this organization is to present "stories from those who have been directly affected by addiction. We aim to raise awareness of the current epidemic we are living through, how addiction comes to pass for many, and very passionately for us the tremendous hopes of being a helping hand in ending the negative stigma connected to addiction as a whole. We have a saying here at Michael's HOPE which represents everything we stand for: 'The ugliest disease lies in the most beautiful people'."

Speakers Trevor Murray and Jordan Stierle spoke to students about their own struggles with substance abuse, the progressive nature of the disease and living a life of recovery. Both speakers discussed how their own substance use led them to do things they never imagine doing. The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition facilitates these educational presentations within the community in an effort to continue to work to change societal norms about alcohol and substance abuse through ongoing prevention, intervention and education activities and events.

For more information about the the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition or other SAFE initiatives contact SAFE at: 516-676-2008 or visit the website at <http://www.safeglencove.org> or Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition>. For additional information about Michael's Hope follow Michael's Hope on Facebook.

Photo From Left to Right: Ashley Ferruffino, SAFE Coalition Liasion; Tony Gallo, SAFE Coalition Co-chair, Trevor Murray, Michael's Hope; Jordan Stierle, Michael's Hope and students at Glen Cove High School