



WAUKESHA COUNTY DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES COALITION

Creating a drug free community – Year 1

A year ago, Waukesha County won a 10-year federal grant to reduce substance abuse in youth. Since then, a county coalition has scored an impressive list of accomplishments in a common vision to build a drug free community.



Free movie nights and alcohol-prevention programs, taught by Mayor Larry Nelson and Superintendent of Schools Todd Gray, were among many activities funded by a federal grant to prevent youth substance abuse in Waukesha County.

To join us in creating a drug free future for Waukesha County youth, through Waukesha County UW-Extension's Drug Free Communities Coalition, contact Irene Secora or Ellen Shiflet at drugfreecommunities@waukeshacounty.gov or call 262/548-7770.

Goal 1: Develop a countywide Waukesha County DFC Coalition

To meet this goal and build a sustainable foundation for a drug free future, the Waukesha County Drug Free Communities initiative has tapped the passion and power of Waukesha County citizens. Efforts to date include:

- recruiting a coalition of 75 members, representing diverse community sectors;
- mobilizing coalition members into four “SWAT” groups (Strategic Work/Action Team): Waukesha County Drug Collection, DFC website, Positive Community Norms and Coalition Leadership;
- working to ensure long-term coalition success by identifying and applying for additional funding sources, including three grants;
- building networks within the county to gain an understanding of existing community needs and services;
- recognizing the federal, county and city partnerships involved in our Drug Free Communities project by organizing a spring celebration involving these partners; and
- maintaining momentum through monthly meetings, creation of a logo, a planning retreat and ongoing training for coalition members.

Goal 2: Reduce use and abuse of alcohol, drugs and tobacco by youth

To meet this goal, the Drug Free Communities Coalition has been active:

- hosting three “REACHOUT Now-Teach In” classes with a national alcohol-prevention curriculum. Mayor Larry Nelson conducted one program; Waukesha Superintendent of Schools Todd Gray another; and Waukesha County UW-Extension Bilingual Educator Juana Avila, teaming with Waukesha social worker Fred Garcia, delivered a bilingual program. The coalition plans to conduct similar Teach Ins at multiple sites in 2010.
- organizing and supporting a “Parents Who Host” campaign, working with the Addiction Resource Council, in three county locations;
- creating an anti-drug event during a free Movie Night held by the Waukesha Youth Collaborative, inviting children to design puzzle pieces with a drug-free message; and
- encouraging children to stay drug free through activities during the annual West Side Neighborhood Cleanup and Taste of the Garden Celebration.