



Chesterfield County Youth Development Coalition

December 2014

The Chesterfield County Youth Development Coalition is a subcommittee of the Chesterfield County Coordinating Council and was established to address risky behaviors among our youth. We are committed to helping our young people develop the proper decision-making skills needed to prevent risky behaviors. We are students, parents, teachers, law enforcement officers, business leaders, state agencies, faith-based organizations, health care organizations and people from all walks of life working together to build a stronger future for our community.

The Youth Development Coalition will meet in the DSS Commons room on the third Tuesday of every month.

We invite those interested in helping the youth of our community to participate in our meetings. By offering your advice, expertise and suggestions you will help to strengthen the coalition while serving the community.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **January 20, 2015**
- **February 17, 2015**

Safe and Sober Holiday's for Teens

There's no better way to celebrate the holidays than to enjoy good food with friends and family. Everyone is already beginning to plan their holiday parties. It's the beverages served at these social events, however, that can be a dangerous mix, especially for young people. The Chesterfield County Youth Development Coalition wants to make all adults aware of the dangers of underage drinking and provide tips to have a safe and sober holiday.

Drinking and driving is not the only thing dangerous about underage drinking. The problem with underage drinking is how it's affecting the young person's brain. The brain is still developing until early 20's, and it is very sensitive to effects of alcohol on judgment and

(Continued on page 2)



Santa's Little Helpers

Tis' the season to have parties! This is a time for everyone to be involved. When planning your holiday party, let your children join in. How? First, the invitations have to be made. Postcards are great and inexpensive to use. Write all of the information for the party on the postcard then give it to your child to decorate. If you have more than one child, let each child take a part in preparing the invitations: writing information on the postcard with different colored pens, decorating the postcard, addressing the envelope, and stamping the envelope. Holiday stamps are usually easy to find at your area stores.

While grocery shopping and picking up extra things let your child pick out a few things that they may enjoy like gingerbread cook-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Edition

Holiday Parades	3
National Impaired Driving Prevention Month	3
Happy Holidays	4



Safe and Sober Holidays (Continued from page 1)

decision-making. Alcohol lowers inhibitions and affects memory. Young people may find themselves doing something they later regret or cannot even remember. Young people that begin drinking before the age of 15 are also four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence later in life than those that wait until the age of 21.

Whether it's during the holiday season or far any celebration, parents can use these tips from the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services and the Parents Who Host Lose the Most Campaign:



- * Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21
- * Be at home when your teen has friends over
- * Make sure that alcohol is not brought into your home or property by teen's friends
- * Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at other events your child will be attending
- * Create alcohol-free opportunities and activities in your home to teens feel welcome
- * Report underage drinking to local law enforcement

For more information or tips to help prevent the use of alcohol by teens, contact Chesterfield

County Youth Development Coalition at 843-623-5265 or e-mail us at srmydc@shtc.net.



Santa's Little Helpers (Continued from page 1)

ies or a special punch. Sugar cookies are perfect for this occasion. Cookie cutters can be used to make different shapes then sprinkles and icing could be added for decoration.

There is nothing more fun than decorating and games. Decorations are quite simple. Some glitter and cotton balls make great snow around the house. Leaves and pine combs from outside spray painted would look lovely around the house or as a center piece for the table. Also, the children can decorate themed placemats depending on the holiday or season. Pin the Star on the Tree is a great game played like Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Let your children make a Christmas mix on a CD or iPod as a great sing-along.

Let your children be the hosts for your

party. They can hang up the jackets as the guests enter then distribute apple cider or hot cocoa. This will make them feel very much involved. At the end of the night, if it is not too late, the children can pass out goody bags filled with a homemade ornament and cookie or a picture that they colored in a bag that they decorated.

Remember, your children will be attending your party. Invite other friends to bring their children. You could even make it into a sleepover. As a parent, consider other alternatives to wine and other alcoholic beverages. Serve punch instead. According to the 2005 Monitoring the Future campaign, about two fifths of students (41%) have consumed alcohol (more than just a few sips) by 8th grade. Be a responsible adult and a role model to the children who attend your event.

Holiday Parades

Dillon Parade – Thurs., December 4 @ 4:30

Chesterfield Parade – Sat., December 6 @ 6 pm

Bennettsville Parade – Tues., December 9 @ 4:30 pm

Cheraw Parade – Sat. December 13 @ 5:30 pm

Pageland Christmas Parade — Sun., December 14 @ 3 pm

Jefferson Christmas Magic Parade - Sun., December 14 @ 6:00pm



Congratulations to Heath Gullede, our Family Day Placemat Contest Winner. The contest ran from September 22 – October 10 and it was free to enter. Heath received a \$50 gift card from Walmart.

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. Although we have made progress over the years to reduce drunk driving, our Nation continues to suffer an unacceptable loss of life from traffic accidents that involve drugs, alcohol, and distracted driving.

It is important during the holiday season and throughout the year that we take special care to combat drunk, drugged and distracted driving and to ensure the safety of the roads for all that drive. The holidays are a special time of celebration and camaraderie and everyone wants to have a good time. Remember to :

⇒Have a designated driver if you plan to

drink at festivities.

⇒Offer a friend or colleague a ride home and trip to pick up their vehicle the next day.

⇒Report anyone driving unsafe to the authorities

⇒Don't text and drive

⇒Don't drive while taking prescription medications with alerts that they may impair operating machinery.

Remember that the roads are busy with families that all want to get to their destinations safe.



Chesterfield County Youth Development Coalition



CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, SC
COORDINATING
COUNCIL

Mission

A coalition of citizens and organizations working together to change community attitudes by providing support, assistance and guidance needed to prevent risky behaviors among all youth in Chesterfield County.

Vision

To create a healthy environment in order for our youth to become productive citizens

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Happy Holidays

*Hoping you have a
wonderful holiday
season.*

*Take time to enjoy the holiday festivities with family,
friends and loved ones.*

Revel in the spirit of the season.

From the Youth Development Coalition