



Chesterfield County Youth Development Coalition

October 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 July 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:

- **October 21, 2014**
- **November 18, 2014**

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Red Ribbon Week October 23 – 31

Red Ribbon Week is the nation’s oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation reaching millions of Americans during the last week of October every year. By wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, young people pledge to live a drug-free life and pay tribute to DEA Special Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena.

Schools, businesses, the faith community, media, families, and community coalitions join together to celebrate Red Ribbon Week in many ways, such as: sponsoring essay and poster contests; organizing drug-free races; decorating buildings in red; handing out red ribbons to customers; holding parades or community events; and by publicizing the value of a drug-free, healthy lifestyle.



The YDC offers a free resource library with programs to do with youth and can provide pamphlets and information to help youth groups do something special for

Red Ribbon Week. There are lots of websites that offer help in planning events for youth.

This week long campaign is a great place to start a conversation with your own kids, classes, youth groups and even to help friends make better choices. The awareness campaign is just the beginning of yearly events focused on alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

If you would like to get more involved in preventing risky behaviors in youth of the community, join us at the YDC and help make a difference. Call 623-5265 for more information.

Marijuana—“Ain’t Nobody Got Time for That” Art Contest

This year, the YDC is kicking off the 5th Annual art contest on October 20 in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week. Students in grades 3-12 throughout the county are being asked to submit original artwork that reflects the theme, Marijuana—“Ain’t Nobody Got Time for That.”

The results from the 2014 Communities That Care Survey indicate that 22.6% of students in Chesterfield County, grades 9-12 have used marijuana in the past 30 days. 40% of students who reported marijuana use began using the drug by age 16 with about 9.5% initiating marijuana use by age 12. Of all students surveyed, 46% believe that there is a slight/no risk of harm from using marijuana once or twice a week. With these facts in hand it is important for all students in Chesterfield County to get the true facts about

marijuana. All entry forms come with a fact sheet for parents and youth to read and discuss.

All of the public schools in Chesterfield County and all of the public libraries in the county will have entry forms. Entry forms will also be available at the Chesterfield County Coordinating Council offices at 201 N. Page St. in Chesterfield. Submissions will be due November 7, 2014. For students not attending public schools their entries will be judged within their grade level. The YDC will hold the Art Contest Awards Ceremony in January or February of 2015.

If you would like more information on the contest or marijuana, please contact Stacey @ 843-623-5265 or email to srmydc@shtc.net.

Marijuana Is Not Harmless

According to a study conducted by Duke University and London’s King’s College, teens who regularly smoke marijuana are putting themselves at risk of permanently damaging their intelligence as adults. It was also found that they are significantly more likely to have attention and memory problems later in life as compared to their peers who abstained from marijuana use.

The study is among the first to distinguish between cognitive problems the person might have had before using marijuana, and those that were caused by the drug.

The research found that adults who started smoking pot as teenagers and used it heavily,

but quit as adults, did not regain their full mental powers. In fact, “persistent users” who started as teenagers suffered a drop of eight IQ points at the age of 38, compared to when they were 13.

Researchers noted that a low IQ can contribute to a challenging life and even an early death. They said it seemed that many young people see marijuana as a safer alternative to using tobacco. The most recent Monitoring the Future study found that, for the first time, more American high school students are using marijuana than tobacco.

Lead researcher Madeline Meier, at Duke University, said “Marijuana is not harmless, particularly for adolescents.”

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ On average, nearly 20 people per minute are victims of physical violence by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.
- ◆ 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced [some form of] physical
- ◆ violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime.
- ◆ 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate part-

ner in their lifetime.

- ◆ 1 in 7 women and 1 in 18 men have experienced stalking victimization during their lifetime in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed. On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.
- ◆ In domestic violence homicides, women are six times more likely to be killed when there is a gun in the house.¹⁰
- ◆ Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.
- ◆ Intimate partner violence is most common among women between the ages of 18-24.2

IF YOU NEED HELP, DIAL THE
NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HOTLINE @ 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

2014 Red Ribbon Photo Contest

The [2014 Red Ribbon Photo Contest](#) is happening from now to November 4, 2014. Will you help us inform families in your community about their chance to win an iPad for the home and **\$1,000 for a local (K-12) school** from the [National Family Partnership](#).

Studies show that parents who talk to their children about the dangers of drug abuse are less at risk, and that's what this contest aims for: to encourage families across America to discuss prevention.

Please help us by forwarding this information to parents, teachers, students, and community leaders ... we hope a family and school from your community wins this year!

Here's how the contest works:

Students (K-12) work with their family to decorate their home front door, mailbox or fence with a red ribbon and this year's theme: **["Love Yourself Be Drug Free."](#)**

Participants upload a picture of the decorations to the [Red Ribbon website](#) between October 1st and November 4th and encourage friends, family, and colleagues to vote (November 5-19th) at www.redribbon.org/vote.



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

Phone: 843-623-5265
 Fax: 843-623-5360
 E-mail: srmydc@shtc.net

201 N. Page Street
 PO Box 648
 Chesterfield, SC 29709

- S** Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.
- A** Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- F** Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- E** Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.
- H** Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others to see you.
- A** Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent skin and eye irritation.
- L** Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.
- L** Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- O** Only walk on sidewalks or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- W** Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.
- E** Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats unless you know the cook well.
- E** Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult.
- N** Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.



For many people, autumn events like Halloween and Harvest Day are fun times to dress up in costumes, go trick-or-treating, attend parties, and eat yummy treats. These events are also opportunities to provide nutritious snacks, get physical activity, and focus on safety. On the left there are some tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for trick-or-treaters and party guests.

