

PREVENTING ALCOHOL RELATED TRAUMA IN SALINAS

Dear Coalition Members,

Greetings!
Welcome to PARTS Quarterly Newsletter, July 2013

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WEBINAR!

Emerging Drugs of Abuse

National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors
Emerging Drugs of Abuse: Herbal Incense, Bath Salts & Purple Drank
Date: August 14, 2013
Time: 3-4:30 pm EST

Registration link: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/701218202>

New drugs of abuse have been appearing on the American streets in increasing numbers over the last several years, and they present an on-going challenge to addiction treatment providers. Until recently, only limited, often inconsistent information was available about these substances.

In this webinar, participants will be introduced to three substances ("bath salts", "herbal incense" and "purple drank") that are gaining in popularity and availability. Specific issues that will be discussed include physical and psychological effects, relationship to other and more common substances, legality and availability and addiction potential. This webinar will focus both on new knowledge about these substances and on what we still need to learn in order to work effectively with clients.

IN THE NEWS:

Students against dispensaries in Marina June 18, 2013-Marina, CA

Kevin Saunders and other Marina residents are pressuring the mayor and City Council to lift the ban on medical marijuana dispensaries in Marina. Sun Street Centers STEPS youth leaders would like to thank the city of Marina for continuing to uphold the ban on medical marijuana dispensaries and to provide information on marijuana myths.

As Safe Teen Empowerment Projects youth leaders, it's important to us to prevent youth accessibility to marijuana. By keeping the ban on medical marijuana dispensaries, the city of Marina is helping us reduce accessibility to marijuana among our youth. Youth access to marijuana is already plentiful on the Peninsula. The California Healthy Kids Survey 2011 reports 76 percent of 11th-grade students in Monterey County say marijuana is easy to obtain. By allowing one dispensary to open, it will send a domino effect across the Peninsula and increase youth access to marijuana. Keeping the ban on marijuana dispensaries is important to the community because it will reduce the number of fatalities among the youth caused by driving under the influence. Also, students who smoke marijuana will affect their learning process, tend to get lower grades and are more likely to drop out of school. I hope you all will agree that education is so important and is the key to a youth's success. Therefore, we shouldn't make marijuana easily accessible to youth in Marina.

Read the entire story at: http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20130618/OPINION03/306180019/Letters-editor-June-18-2013?ncllick_check=1

From STEPS students to Program Aides

Jonisha Damon

My journey with Sun Street Centers started in 2006 after I graduated from

Junior High. I was approached by the Program Coordinator for the STEPS program. I was attending a scholarship ceremony at the Steinbeck Center in Salinas. The coordinator, Kate Badon, shared information about STEPS (Safe Teens Empowerment Project). She told me I could work as a youth leader, help the community, and help teens learn about and resist drugs and alcohol. I knew that I wanted to help people, so this was a path to follow. Since then, I have learned so many things about substance abuse and the consequences of these choices. In 2011, I was promoted to Program Aide. Now I assist with the STEPS program, Life Skills Training, Gateway Drug Presentations and informing the public on the issues surrounding drugs and alcohol use. Being a part of Sun Street Centers has helped me become a better person. I'm now in college and about to graduate. As I depart from my duties as Program Aide, I am going to carry on with the information I have learned and the experiences I have gained through Sun Street Centers by helping and teaching others about the dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse.



Jorge Quiroz

I started STEPS when I became a freshmen at Alisal High School. My intention to join STEPS was to

complete my community hours and leave. When I started STEPS, I was a very shy and timid person. I wasn't a person that would start a conversation just like that. In 2010, I went from a volunteer to an employee. I knew that I now had to step up my game. I started to become more involved as a STEPS employee and little by little I started to learn more about myself. As time passed by, my personality began to show. I became more outgoing and I felt more comfortable when it came to talking in front of a large crowd. Recently, I graduated from Alisal High School and moved up to being a Program Aide. The reason why I stayed and will stay with STEPS for a long time is because I learned that I enjoy working with youth. I want to keep seeing youth make a change in our community and I want to empower youth to make a positive change. Thanks to STEPS I learned that we, the youth, have a voice and if we use it, it can become a very powerful tool that can make a great impact. If we are able to get more youth involved in our community, it can help create a safe and sober environment for everyone!

Eric Villareal

When I was a freshman in high school I was always looking for a place where I could belong. I tried many different clubs, groups, and even tried being by myself. Every single one of these things left me without a purpose. Then, in my second semester I heard they were looking for students who would be involved with trying to prevent the use of drugs and alcohol among teens, in other words a STEPS (Safe Teens Empowerment Project) in South County. I called Sun Street Centers to ask for more information, and they asked me to come in for an interview. The first question they asked was "why do you want to be a part of STEPS?" My answer was that living in a poor community made coming across drugs and alcohol a daily occurrence; I wanted to be well aware of the repercussions when someone makes the decision to take drugs or drink alcohol. This was especially important because I knew that one of my brothers had been influenced by the drug, marijuana, and I wanted to be informed so that when the time came I would be able to help him. Being in STEPS has been both exciting and nerve racking. Even though I have been involved for almost four years, I still get nervous when I have to speak to dozens of people. Recently, I have been promoted to the position of Program Aide. Being a part of the Sun Street Centers family has made me into the responsible man I am today, and has readied me for my future. The Program Aide position is only temporary until I leave for college at Colorado State University where I will be studying Biomedical Engineering and Electrical Engineering.



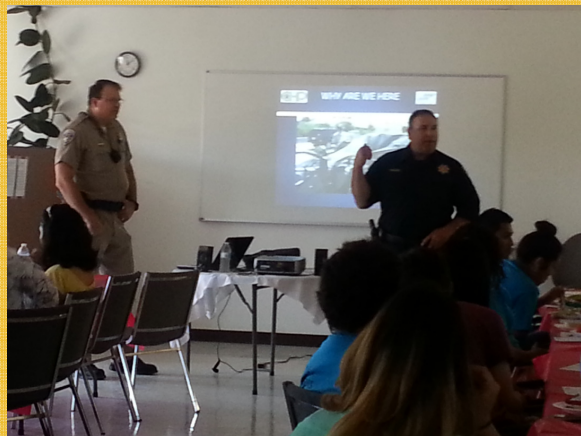
The Voice of Youth

The Sun Street Center's Safe Teens Empowerment Projects are very active groups in Salinas, the Peninsula and South County with a focus on reducing alcohol related traffic injuries and fatalities as well as drug and alcohol abuse amongst minors. The STEPS attend resource fairs to inform parents and youth, volunteer at DUI checkpoints to support our local police departments in the effort to reduce drinking and driving and conduct radio/television interviews to talk about issues affecting our youth. In addition to educating the community, the STEPS students attend city council meetings to advocate the importance of building safe and healthy communities and voicing their concern on the passing of regulations, policies and laws pertaining to drug and alcohol abuse throughout Monterey County.



PARTS members in action:

We want to thank everyone who attends our PARTS Coalition Meetings in Salinas, the Peninsula and South County.



South County PARTS Coalition hosting an educational seminar by California Highway Patrol regarding underage drinking.



Mayor John Huerta talking about the work that he does in the city of Greenfield at the South County PARTS Coalition.



On June 10, 2013 Lt. John Nores presented a PowerPoint presentation helping the audience understand the dangers of illegal marijuana grows that use illegal pesticides and/or chemicals, and the illegal marijuana gardens close to us. Among the audience was the Safe Teens Empowerment Project in Salinas, Peninsula and South County as well as Sun Street Centers staff, Lt. Nolan from Marina Police Department, PARTS members and other individuals living in Monterey County.

PARTS COALITION MEMBERS BULLETIN BOARD

Save the date!!

Closter Park Clean-Up

Saturday July 20, 2013; 9am-2pm
Come and join STEPS in efforts to keep
Closter Park clean and drug free.

Parents Creating Solutions

Meetings on Wednesdays
10am-11am
For more information please
contact Sylvia Ramirez (831)753-5150

Youth Summit: The Power of Youth

July 27, 2012, 11:00am-4:00pm at 37
Central Ave, Community Room.

A great way for the teenagers to learn
about the issues that are going on in the
community, including solutions, resources
for interested youth and the opportunity
to get community hours.

(Youth focused but
adults are welcomed)

*Lunch will be provided

Please RSVP
Sylvia Ramirez (831)753-5150

Salinas PARTS Coalition

Meetings on second Thursday of the month
12pm-1:30pm
37 Central Ave, Community Room.
If you have any questions please contact
Sylvia Ramirez (831) 753-5150

STEPS

Meetings on Wednesdays and Fridays
1:30m-4:30pm. Contact Sylvia
Ramirez (831)753-5150 for more
information.

PARTS Coalition Mission

Our mission is to prevent alcohol-related injuries and fatalities,
prevent youth access to alcohol and drugs and the initiated use
of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in the city of Salinas.



Reference: The partnership at Drugfree.org