



### **What is the Save Our Youth Task Force?**

The Livonia Save Our Youth Task Force is a grassroots effort to educate and empower the community in addressing the issues that affect the health and safety of our young people with a focus on alcohol and other drugs.

### **Why does Livonia need a task force like this?**

- "... Livonia police suspect [fentanyl\*] could have played a role in a dozen deaths in Livonia over the past year." *Livonia Observer*, 8/20/2006
- Teen drug and alcohol use is higher in the suburbs than in Detroit. *SAMHSA, 2002-2004 SubState Report of Substance Use*
- Nationally, 10.5% of 14 to 18 year olds report nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers in the last year. That's the equivalent of more than 660 Livonia Public Schools high school students. *SAMHSA, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002, 2003, and 2004*
- 14.5% of 18 to 25 year olds have used prescription drugs to get high. That's the equivalent of more than 7300 young Livonia residents. *SAMHSA & US Census Bureau*

### **Who is in the task force?**

The task force includes parents, teens, educators, health care workers, criminal justice professionals and addiction professionals. All interested community members are welcome.

\*Fentanyl is a highly potent synthetic opioid that is sometimes added to street drugs

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### **What has the task force done?**

Our accomplishments include:

- A town hall meeting at city hall with a panel of experts, parents and teens. This event had more than 350 attendees.
- A Resource Guide for families affected by drug and/or alcohol use.
- An Educational Program about teens and drugs for parents.
- Sponsor drug-free activities for Livonia teens.
- Published a school board Voter's Guide with Q&A from candidates.
- Two Family Fun Runs to raise awareness and offer drug free fun for the community.

### **What is the task force doing now?**

- Three additional Educational Programs for parents in 2007.
- Safe and drug-free tailgate parties.
- Voter guides for local elections.
- Additional drug-free activities for teens like bowling and a battle of the bands.
- A Help Card for Livonia teens.
- HBO's Addiction series house parties.

### **What you can do?**

Almost everyone is concerned about alcohol and drug use by teens and young adults, but what to do about it? We're offering you an opportunity to keep Livonia safe and a great place to raise a family. Here's how:

- Join us. We have ongoing committees and projects that can use your help. You are also welcome to attend steering committee meetings on the first Monday of the month at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in the auditorium.
- Make a financial gift to support our work.
- Share this information with someone who needs it.

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