



GGAPP's 2009 Leadership Award Recipients

Jim Schlacter

Gresham Barlow School District Assistant Superintendent

Gresham Barlow, under Schlacter's leadership, has been designing a more comprehensive drug and alcohol prevention strategy for every grade level in the district. He was the first to share Oregon Healthy Teens data with GGAPP and invite GGAPP to the table in looking at out of school time services and programs.

One year ago this month a Barlow senior lost her life to drugs. The staff at Barlow worked with Law Enforcement and community members in hosting a parent night at the school a few months later; working to ensure that parents had the correct information they needed to keep kids safe. In late Spring he and April Goss worked together to get all the high school level principals, counseling staff and teachers responsible for health education / prevention in one place to discuss the connections between all their varied prevention effort and how they might improve those links and continue to build and more comprehensive message of prevention in the high schools.

GGAPP was invited to the table and was able to share some of the dynamic and challenging programs that are being implemented across the country. Last summer, after the meeting Cathy found some additional information to share with coaches about a sports curriculum that focuses on athlete pledges to abstain from use of drugs and alcohol. She was able to forward it on to Jim for his review and he in turn shared it with staff.

On two separate occasions Gresham Barlow staff has attended the national CADCA conference in Washington, D.C. Focused on building prevention services throughout the country, the conference brings together experts to share resources, strategies and best practices.

Gresham Barlow staff has been fully engaged in the Peer Court program, the family empowerment program, numerous leadership meetings and community dialogs. In the past year with budget changes Jim communicated directly with GGAPP on who was doing what and how responsibilities for prevention efforts would be changing.

By engaging staff throughout the district in coalition efforts, being open to new ideas and communicating directly with the collation Jim Schlacter illustrates, through his work, how to not only implement comprehensive prevention education, but to how to work in collaboration with the community to reduce substance abuse.

Ryan Rist

Troutdale Police Officer

Ryan was at the table at the very beginning of the process and attended initial meetings about the court idea with Officer Jennifer Goss. He spent hours listening to varied views on how to work the program, what offenses to work with, how to engage the kids, visiting a court program in Beaverton – all the mundane details of starting the Peer Court and ensuring that it was affiliated with the juvenile system. Patient and very perceptive Ryan is never afraid to make a statement or ask a question that represented officers concerns.

Earlier this year, Ryan worked on a case involving a student in a fight off of school grounds. In talking to both students, he was able to persuade the youth to be involved in Peer Court and the parents of the other child to avoid more serious charges. His efforts kept the situation from getting over-blown and made sure everyone was satisfied with the options. The youth who participated in the court; completed community service and worked as a juror in two peer court cases, and in writing his essay he talked about his community service: “Working there for four weeks really made me think about what I can make the community around me think of me.”

Officer Rist has also been very involved in the Troutdale DARE program. He has attended trainings to provide the DARE program curriculum in two Reynolds District Elementary schools and worked very hard to make sure the programs continued in spite of budget cuts. He worked with GGAPP to do an essay contest for the DARE graduates, delivered a survey to test knowledge and worked to ensure that the kids not only learned critical refusal skills but understood they had the power to make individual safe choices – evident in the wonderful essays the children turned in. GGAPP works with individuals across community sectors and Law Enforcement is one of our most crucial partners in implementing key

environmental strategies; those initiatives that change the broader scope of how the community views substance abuse. Ryan Rist is not only a terrific individual but a Law Enforcement Officer that works to get kids engaged, believes in the power of community and truly understands the key role Law Enforcement plays in our efforts. The success of the coalition is due to the commitment and focus of members like Ryan Rist of the Troutdale Police Department.

El Programma Hispano

Gresham, Oregon

El Programma has been working to support families and teens for well over 15 years. They have had / and still have outreach workers in the area high schools, run groups for teens, classes and individual case management.

When the coalition talks about how we work together to reduce ‘the risk factors’ for kids we are talking about the lure of gangs – gangs that sell and use drugs, the lure of dropping out of school to hang with ‘their homies’ and the lure of romance that often leads to unintended pregnancy.

Often the young people El programma serves are bridging two cultures; the Latino or Hispanic culture of their parents and family and the culture of American youth. Struggles to learn in English when their first language is Spanish, poverty, isolation, crime; all of these are issues teens face.

It is through innovative programming El Programma Hispano reaches out to support each and every child they serve and they are working to reduce the risks kids face that can lead them to use alcohol and drugs through these crucial programs.

El Programma isn’t always available to attend meetings, but they do take action. Their student groups have been available to GGAPP to test the cost of crime class curriculum for the peer court, to film segments of the “Community of Choice” video and to encourage parents to participate in the parent leadership classes.

Ricardo has provided intake forms directly to GGAPP so Peer Court defendants can be referred to El Programma programs, and recently Jaime was available to translate for parents and testify on behalf of a youth in a Peer Court hearing. Through their efforts to engage parents and families they are helping youth to be strengthened and supported by their values of family; building the greatest protection we have against substance abuse. El Programma has been tireless in supporting youth through SUN programs, events at housing complexes and schools and working in collaboration with key partners throughout the community. They embody the ideals of a Drug Free Community to include everyone in substance abuse prevention through protection for all our children.