



# GGAPP- GAB

INFORMATION AND UPDATES FOR THOSE SUPPORTING

*A Drug Free Community Future*

GO TO [www.GGAPP.ORG](http://www.GGAPP.ORG)

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**FAITH TEAM BREAKFAST** Faith leaders and community partners have been invited to a breakfast at the Nazarene Church 3445 Hilliard, **Gresham on June 10, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.**, hosted by the Faith Team of GGAPP the purpose of the event is to present information on community issues and trends challenging our families and youth and provide an opportunity to dialog among faith leadership. We know that together we can find ways to gather ideas, look for resources opportunities and share existing community energy to meet these challenges with value based solutions.

**COMMUNITY DIALOGS** In an effort to increase community wide awareness of the risks of drugs and alcohol the GGAPP coalition is working in partnership with the East County Caring Community to strengthen the collaboration among the four East Multnomah County's communities' social services, nonprofit agencies, schools, businesses, faith leaders, law enforcement and local governments. It is envisioned that resources allocations, constituency knowledge and future planning can more be more strategically aligned for sustainable community solutions if we work together. Two dialogs have already occurred and deep conversations and strategy sessions were developed around ***Poverty and Homelessness, Mental Health and Drug Treatment Access*** and ***Youth out of School Time***. Join us for the next dialog and planning session on **Thursday July 10, 3-5 p.m.** at Clear Creek Middle School located at 219 NE 219<sup>th</sup> in Gresham.



**DRUG FREE WORKPLACE** A partnership effort between Work Drug Free Oregon and the Gresham Area Chamber and supported by GGAPP the program works to assist business with the development of Drug Free Work Place policies, employer education programs and business presentations in area high schools. Join us **Friday June 6<sup>th</sup> 7-9 a.m.** in the City of Gresham Council Chambers, 1333 NW Eastman Parkway for the Chamber a.m. to learn more about this great program.

**YOU CAN'T SAVE THE WORLD BY GETTING HIGH** Spring Water Trail High School students planned and implemented this Town Hall event for Teens; April 8<sup>th</sup> 2008, 7-9:00 p.m. at Centennial High School Auditorium, The event was a about alcohol and drug use to which area teens ages 13 to 18, and their parents were invited to attend. The two-hour event was hosted by youth volunteers, who presented information on teen brain development and the effects of drug and alcohol use employing music, drama and activities designed to engage teens. The high impact information and challenging dialog with the guest panel that included law enforcement, a local physician, school councilors and social service agency representatives was very imaginative and informative. Crystal McDonald, Springwater Trail senior said, "I think it starts with the choices you make. You can impact your world by making change and it starts with people saying, Not going there,.. Haven't tried it, instead of; been there and done that." Metro East Community TV aired the program throughout April.

***Thank you to everyone who participated in GGAPP's second annual Town Hall  
Read on,..***

***Planning ahead,..***





**FOUR CITIES PEER COURT** The Peer Court is a diversion program designed to give first time juvenile offenders a chance to avoid consequences affiliated with formal entry in to the Multnomah County juvenile justice system. When a first time juvenile offender is cited for one of ten applicable offences, the officer will offer the option to enter the Youth Peer Court; instead of the juvenile justice court. The youth must plead guilty and have no prior offences. The youth will interview with a parent or pro-social adult and be assigned a Peer (youth) Attorney. In the Peer Court, the circumstances of the case are heard and the jury (students and previous juvenile offenders) decide on what accountability fits the particular crime. The presiding judge, who is an Oregon barred attorney, will maintain order, guide the process and oversee the hearing. All youth will participate in of a “cost of crime class’ and one jury duty session. They may also be assigned essays, written apologies and community service. Offenders who fail to comply with the Peer Court requirements will be referred back to the juvenile justice system for prosecution.

The Peer Court planning team has been working over the past year to develop this program for the community. The court will start with Reynolds School District middle and high schools and operate in the Fairview City Hall two days per week starting in September. Staffing for the court will be interns from Portland State University’s Criminal Justice program and volunteers. If you or someone you know would be interested in scheduling a presentation on the court, attending training for the court or volunteering please contact us at 503-823-0250.

**THE PIT (Positive Identity for Teens)** is a community based cooperative program model that provides safely monitored places for teens to access services, hang-out and find support. There is a tremendous need for older teen programs and services in the East County. This is especially true for teens that do not access school services and need assistance finding employment, gaining life skills training, school support or even access to health care. GGAPP has been working with a group of community members over the previous few months to implement this program. If you are interested in assisting with the PIT model and its implementation please contact us for information on upcoming meetings.



**GREATER GRESHAM IS GREAT!** We are in the initial stages of planning a two year anniversary event, workshop and coalition election for GGAPP, slated for the date of the final community dialog on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008. It will be an opportunity to celebrate our success and look at what still needs to be done. Your participation and ideas are vital and we are hopeful that you will join us to help plan the party!

- ***The Every 15 Minutes*** program is designed to help young people become more aware that on average a teen dies in a drug or alcohol related accident every 15 minutes. The two day program involves 25 students who leave school every 15 minutes to become the walking dead. The following day at an assembly the students participate in a dramatization of a vehicle accident and the ensuing trauma to family and friends. GGAPP was pleased to be able to support the program this year because - ***Every 15 minutes someone is killed by an impaired driver. “Don’t let it be you or someone you love”***. Our thanks to the City of Gresham Police -The City of Gresham Fire and the 2008 Graduating Classes from Barlow, Centennial, Gresham and Reynolds High Schools for the implementation of this important program.
- **Family Workshops** provided by Metropolitan Family Services this past year included parent trainings such as Get Ready for Changes, Discipline, Managing conflict and How to Strengthen Family Bonds. Make Parenting a Pleasure and Strengthen Families were also offered FREE through area SUN schools programs. Sixty-six families were served



and we look forward to building the program to include more SUN sites and more families next year.

- **PAL Youth Center** provides excellent programs and services to youth and families and GGAPP is supporting the PAL sports camp this June 23-27 to be held at Madison High school. Older teens involved in the PAL leadership program have been invited to work on a GGAPP web site youth page, continuing to link youth voices to GGAPP's prevention efforts.
- **GGAPP Web Site** The GGAPP web site will be undergoing a NEW transformation in July. Electronic communications are a critical link to the larger community, a central place to share information, ideas, programs, surveys and opportunities to get involved. We are developing 'pages' for every area of the coalition and need your links, ideas and information. Send us your ideas and suggestions by June 10.



### **GGAPP IS WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY**

Our goal, “ to reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, among adults by addressing the factors in a community that increase the risk of substance abuse and by promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse”, works with the concept of risk factors. **A RISK FACTOR** is an association between some characteristic or attribute of an individual, group or in an environment and an increased probability of certain disorders or disease related phenomena at some point in time. These are the key risk factors for schools and community that influence substance abuse.

#### **School Risk Factors**

- Lack of appreciation for school
- Low grades
- Low involvement in school – activities, clubs, events
- Lack of opportunities for involvement and reward
- Norms conducive to use of drugs – it's acceptable in the school to use
- Lack of support from teachers and school environment (for grades, to stay clean)
- Low student and / or teacher morale

***GGAPP will be working on a variety of Community and school initiatives in the coming months – in keeping with our goal!***



#### **Community Risk Factors**

- Not feeling a part of the community
- Being in a community that condones substance abuse
- Disorganized neighborhoods lacking active community institutions and leadership
- Lack of youth involvement in positive ways
- High rate of crime and substance abuse
- Poverty and lack of employment
- Availability of drugs and alcohol
- Stress from social situations
- Lack of economic mobility
- Lack of social supports
- High population density
- Transient populations
- Physical deterioration of the community