



Governor's Commission for a Drug Free Indiana LaPorte County Local Coordinating Council

LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership

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With the data gathered through the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPFSIG) process, the Drug Free Partnership recently applied for a federal youth prevention grant.

The Drug Free Communities grant would bring \$125,000 annually into our county for a potential of five years. The focus would include alcohol, binge drinking, and prescription drug abuse.

The grant would cover some projects in these areas, as well as help the Partnership build capacity to change social norms around these issues.

Top LaPorte County OWI officers honored



LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership recognized the highest achieving Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) arresting officers at a ceremony at its May 5 meeting.

“The Partnership is very pleased to recognize law enforcement’s extra vigilance in keeping our streets and roads safe from persons who choose to drink and drive,” Board President Deb Reason (pictured above) said.

Records show a total of 725 OWI arrests were made in the county last year.

The top two arresting officers from four law enforcement agencies were recognized, along with “honorable mentions” for officers achieving more than 10 arrests each in 2009.

With sponsorship from Josh Alexander, State Farm of LaPorte, Meijer, and Swanson Center, each officer received a plaque recognizing this outstanding achievement.

Honorees included: LaPorte County Sheriff’s Department Deputy Andy Hynek with 54 arrests, and Deputy Jonathan Burger with 45 arrests. Hynek has been the top arresting officer in the county for several years. Honorable mentions include: Derek Allen (38 arrests); Andrew Hahn (21); Michael Zimmerman, (16); Slawek Czupryna, (13); and Troy Ryan, (12).

Michigan City Police Department Officer Jason Haloway led with 29 arrests, along with Officers Francisco Rodriguez and Kevin Urbanczyk tying with 18. Officers Robert Grant

and Greg Radiger tied for honorable mention with 16 arrests each.

For the LaPorte Police Department, Specialist Brian Favia again led with 45 total OWI arrests, of which 5 were felonies, and Specialist Robert Greer repeated with 41 total OWI arrests, of which 7 were felonies. Officers receiving honorable mention were: Specialist Chae Uhlemann, (11); Specialist Robert Metcalf (11); and Officer Rudolfo (Rudy) Esparza, (10).

In addition, Indiana State Police Trooper Kyle Hudson achieved 13 arrests during 2009.

Congratulations to these officers on their exceptional efforts!



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Our Mission: To bring together individuals, organizations, and agencies both public and private, who seek to provide optimal resources for the combating of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug abuse in LaPorte County, with specific focus on binge drinking, prescription drug abuse, marijuana usage, and youth prevention efforts.

Low-cost drug and alcohol breath tests are available for purchase at LaPorte and Michigan City Health Department offices on Fridays; and at the Juvenile Services Center and Wanatah Public School daily.

PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Our meetings begin at noon on the first Wednesday of each month, alternating between the 7th floor conference room in the Swanson Center / Marquette Mall Office Building in Michigan City, and the LaPorte First United Methodist Church, 1225 Michigan Ave, LaPorte.

Youth Leadership Expands

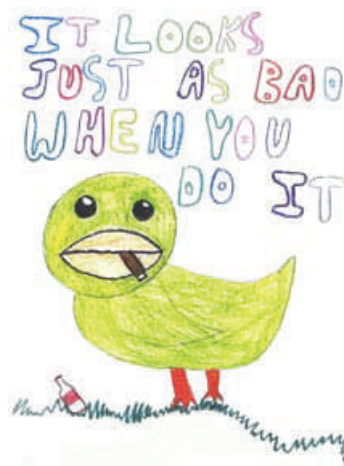
The Drug Free Partnership is pleased to collaborate with Leadership La Porte County and the Youth Service Bureau to expand its student outreach in LaPorte County.

The Partnership is lending support to expansion of the summer leadership training program for middle school students. Leadership La Porte County Youth invites all incoming 6th and 7th graders to apply for the year-long training that begins in July with the summer camp.

Sessions will be held the mornings of July 12-15 at Kesling Park in La Porte. During the school year, the participants will meet monthly to discuss community issues such as government, business, nonprofits, volunteering, and community service, along with additional leadership training.

There is no cost to participate; however parents must provide transportation to the events and meetings. A limit of 50 students will be admitted to the program.

Leadership has expanded outreach to new areas, added youth coordinator Alliegra Hand, created new programs and partners, and received a grant from the Indiana Coalition to Improve Adolescent Health (ICIAH) to fund the summer leadership camp. The curriculum will include the experiences, relationships, resources, and opportunities to support the youth's need to become healthy, happy, and productive adults—including a focus on alcohol and binge drinking prevention.



A dedicated committee has begun to plan activities for the 2010 Drug-Free Work Week observation, October 18-24.

The LaPorte County Coalition for a Drug-Free Workplace will reinforce the importance of working drug-free. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 75% of the nation's current illegal drug users are employed - and 3.1 percent say they have actually used illegal drugs before or during work hours. Nearly 80% of the nation's heavy alcohol users are employed, and 7.1 percent say they

have consumed alcohol during the workday.

In addition to holding the third annual student poster contest, local sponsors are being sought to support developing and printing an informative and engaging calendar that will feature past contest winners, as well as valuable information for employers and employees. To learn more about this opportunity, contact Allison Goshorn, Purdue Extension, LaPorte County, 219-324-9407 or agoshorn@purdue.edu.

For Drug-Free Work Week resources, visit: The U.S. Department of Labor at <http://www.dol.gov/asp/programs/drugs/workingpartners/wpdrug-free.asp> or The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at <http://www.workplace.samhsa.gov/WPWorkit/index.html>

CHECK IT OUT ONLINE...

www.stopdrugabuse.com. Provides a portal of federal resources.
www.drugs.indiana.edu - Indiana Prevention Resource Center.
www.drugabuse.gov - National Institute on Drug Abuse.
www.health.org - US Department of Health and Human Services
SAMHSA National Clearinghouse for alcohol and drug info.
www.indianatobaccoquitline.net - state Quitline offering two free weeks of nicotine patches, gum, or lozenges. Or call 1-800-QUITNOW to register.