



TALBOT PARTNERSHIP

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Safe Homes

Parents in Talbot County are being encouraged to register for the **Safe Homes Directory** as one way to connect to other families to help keep their teens drug and alcohol free at home, as well as away from home. Parents in the **Safe Homes Directory** sign the **Safe Homes Pledge**, making a clear statement to their teens regarding expectations and rules for their conduct in their home, as well as in the homes of their friends. Parents promise to supervise all teen gatherings and prohibit underage alcohol, tobacco and drug use in their homes. To sign up to become a **Safe Homes** parent, contact Talbot Partnership at info@talbotpartnership.org or call 410-819-8067.

Talbot Partnership Newsletter October 2008

I am pleased to have joined Talbot Partnership as its new executive director in September. As most of you know, I have replaced Janet Pfeffer, who decided to retire after 17 years at the helm of the organization. We want to thank Janet for her remarkable leadership in working toward making youth free of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Talbot County. The organization is now poised with its partners to make a significant impact on community norms.

As school begins and the busy pace of life resumes this fall, I hope each of you will dedicate some time to helping promote the many programs that are helping to make a difference in building a positive community culture. This issue of the newsletter highlights these resources and training opportunities that can be used to achieve some of the goals outlined in the Talbot County Blue Ribbon Commission Report.

In addition, in this issue we are seeking your input at Talbot Partnership's Annual Planning Retreat. I look forward to meeting all of you in the coming months. In the meantime, feel free to contact me at gpearce@talbotpartnership.org or at 410-819-8067.

Sincerely,

Gary Pearce



Pictured is Janet Pfeffer with her dog Toby. Janet recently retired from Talbot Partnership after 17 years at the helm.

Talbot Partnership Retreat

We invite our friends and partners to join us on Wednesday, October 15 from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at

Sign-Up a Friend

To sign up a friend to receive this E-Newsletter, send an e-mail to info@talbotpartnership.org.

You may also [forward this issue to a friend](#).

Promoting Partner Membership

If you or someone you know would like to become a **Partner** of Talbot Partnership, visit our Web site and click on [Partner Agreement Form](#) or set up a meeting with Susan LaFerla by calling 410-819-8067.

We thank those partners who have recently renewed or joined this year!

Easton at 7401 Ocean Gateway for our Annual Planning Retreat. This year's retreat, "Partnering for a Brighter Future," will begin at 8 a.m. with a special presentation for partners and supporters on what works with prevention, along with an update on the Blue Ribbon Commission Oversight Committee. At 9 a.m. a planning session on community building will be led by Christine Clarke of Shore Health System, addressing how we can develop stronger partnerships as we promote education and early intervention to prevent substance abuse in our community. A continental breakfast will be served. Please RSVP by October 8 to 410-819-8067 or info@talbotpartnership.org.

New Board Members

Talbot Partnership Board of Directors welcomes new board members Rick Towle of Easton, Director of Talbot County Parks and Recreation; Terry Satchell of Easton; and Jim Reed of Oxford, a retired builder.



Pictured is the 2008-2009 Talbot Partnership Board of Directors.

Back row, left to right, are Gary Pearce, new Talbot Partnership executive director; J. Morgner, Terry Satchell, Paula Lowry, Rick Towle, Sharon Dundon, Sandy Stanford, Cynthia Jurrius, Robbie Gill, M.J. Peirce, and Edward Roberts. Pictured front row, left to right, are Sandy Redd, Carolyn Jaffe, Susan Moore (President), Gail Phillips, and Jim Reed. Absent from the photo is Joanne Browe.

Resources

In addition to our Web site <http://www.talbotpartnership.org/>, in each issue of our e-newsletter, we highlight resources that may be helpful to you on the health effects of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs.

Talk Kits for 6th Grade Families

The Blue Ribbon Commission recently developed a strategy to increase parent education about substance abuse risks and prevention when children enter middle school. Talbot Partnership and the Talbot County Public Schools recently spearheaded a project, with the help of parents, to provide

sixth grade parents with a toolkit to help them with their children's transition to middle school this school year. Families of students in Easton Middle School, St. Michaels Elementary School, Saints Peter and Paul Elementary School, The Country School, and Chesapeake Christian School received the toolkits this month.

Among the items included in blue nylon tote bags bearing the word "Talk" is a key ring of TALK cards, which parents can use to initiate meaningful conversation on a variety of topics including drug, alcohol and/or tobacco, and peer relationships. The cards were designed to help youth better understand who they are and what's important to them. The toolkit also includes a bookmark listing resources for parents and children, including recommended classes, books, and Web sites related to drug, alcohol, and/or tobacco issues. Additional items include a street drug information sheet, magnets for the TurnAround Program and for the Talbot TipLine for Underage Drinking, a mouse pad encouraging parents to talk to their children, and brochures on tobacco and alcohol refusal skills. The Talk toolkits were funded in part by the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Cigarette Restitution Grant.

Trainings/Presentations

Talbot Partnership staff is available to do a 15-minute Power Point presentation to your community organization or workplace about the Blue Ribbon Commission Report. Staff is also available to present information to help train your staff, volunteers and clients about how to recognize the signs and symptoms of substance abuse in teenagers through its training program, "Protecting My Teen – Addressing Teen Alcohol and Other Drug Use." To arrange presentations on either of these topics, contact Talbot Partnership at 410-819-8067.

Guiding Good Choices, a four-session parent education program on how to raise drug-free teens, is available this fall for Talbot County families of 5th and 6th graders. To organize a parent class in your school or neighborhood, contact Talbot Partnership at 410-819-8067.

Web Sites

<http://www.parentsempowered.org/> This Web site has great tips on how to stay involved in your teenager's life. Since teenagers have cell phones, the Web site suggests sending text messages, like those sent from their friends as a great way to stay in touch and to let them know you're thinking about them. The Web site also provides a list of suggested messages, including some messages to remind them to avoid underage drinking.

<http://www.drugfree.org/> This Web site offers advice and stories from parents and professionals about drug prevention, intervention and raising healthy teens. Among the advice is information about how to connect with teens through the technology they use. Tips include how to learn more about <http://www.myspace.com/>, <http://www.facebook.com/>, Instant Messenger, Internet games and blogs, as well as to better understand texting lingo to communicate with your child.

Book Review

NYT reviewer Janet Maslin wrote the following about the book, *From Binge to Blackout: A Mother and Son Struggle With Teen Drinking*: "[It] is an especially gripping cautionary tale. And it is unusual in that it does not follow the standard story template, from downfall to miracle cure. Instead this account is divided into two narrators: Toren Volkman, who slid with scary ease from fun-loving party guy to desperate alcoholic; and Chris Volkman, his mother, who bought Toren's assurances that he was fine. **He had a secret, and she hadn't a clue.**"

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