

Faith Community's Role to Prevent Underage Drinking

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Overview

- **Learn to engage the faith community in coalition efforts**
- **Learn to collaborate with faith leaders to address key environmental prevention strategies**
- **Identify several approaches to encourage long-term involvement in underage drinking prevention efforts by members of the faith community**

My Why

- **Death and Sorrow**

- Between 2001 and 2005, there were 7 fatal crashes among 16-20-year-olds in Platte County, with four of those crashes involving alcohol

- **Violence and Assaults**

- Young people under the age of 21 commit 45% of rapes, 44% of robberies, and 37% of other assaults. It's estimated that nearly 47% of assaults are alcohol-related.

- **Obligation and Duty**

- The faith community has always been a staple in community and social initiatives

Background

- **Coalition Chair 2001-2008**
- **Served as spokesperson for underage drinking prevention efforts**
- **Assisted in addressing local and statewide alcohol control policies**

Building Blocks for a Better Community

- **Leadership**
 - We all play a role in the battle to fight underage drinking
- **Collaboration**
 - The only way to make progress on the issue is for all sectors of the community to collectively tackle it together
- **Enrichment**
 - Kids with faith tend to fair better than those without

Power of Roles



Engaging Faith Community



Seek and You Shall Find

- **Involve the faith community in coalition activities / initiatives**
 - * **Include in mailings**
 - * **Meet one on one**
 - * **Send promotional materials**
 - * **Ask to present to congregation/youth group**

Why Faith Community Wanes

- Clergy tend to be pulled in many areas
- Will be concerned about stepping out on issue
- May have members in the industry
- May not agree with our community positions

Environmental Strategies



- **Policy**
 - **Resolutions of Support**
 - **Attend City County/County Board Mtgs**

- **Enforcement**
 - **Support law enforcement and encourage to enforce underage drinking laws**

Environmental Strategies

- **Media Advocacy**
 - Letters to the Editor
 - Meet with local newspaper editor
- **Education/Awareness**
 - Preach from the pulpit
 - Include handouts in bulletin
 - Provide opportunity for presentations
- **Youth Involvement**
 - Get youth involved and encourage youth leadership on the issue



Persistence is Key



- May not respond initially
- May not respond until there is a tragedy
- Always ask for their prayers
- Find little ways they can participate
- Don't be afraid to ask
- Keep asking
- Ask again

Alcohol in City Parks

- **Prohibit Alcohol in City Parks**
 1. **Resolution of Support**
 2. **Letter to the Editor**
 3. **Present to Park Board #1**
 4. **Present to Park Board #2**





Persistence Prevails

“Not only so, but we rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

Romans 5:3-5

Long-term Partnerships

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 1:3-6

Thank You and God Bless

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