



Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation

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The Underage Drinking Puzzle: What's your piece?

Trying to solve the issue of underage drinking is like solving a puzzle with 1000 pieces. It takes time and every piece is equally important to complete the task. We all have a part in preventing underage drinking. What's your piece? That's the message and question MCYAF poses to Maine Township citizens of all ages.

“Whether you are a parent, teacher, coach or just a friend, talking to a child in your life about the risks and harm of alcohol is vital to changing the current culture of acceptance of alcohol use. When anyone under the age of 21 drinks alcohol, it is illegal, and it's also dangerous and unhealthy,” said Tricia Williams, Prevention Specialist with the Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation (MCYAF).

“Teens report that the most believable sources of information about alcohol are their parents, followed by health professionals, teachers and coaches, police, and then their friends. So it's true – we all have a role in preventing underage drinking,” Williams added.

MCYAF launched this latest message to encourage adults and teens to step up and have a conversation with youth about not using alcohol, which is the most widely used substance among teens in Maine Township. When teens think adults in their community disapprove of them drinking they are less likely to drink.

“Obviously, it is against the law for anyone under 21 to drink or possess alcohol,” said Park Ridge Police Chief Frank Kaminski. “When you add alcohol to the mix of a developing teen brain, it's unhealthy and risky. Under those circumstances, kids can make poor decisions that could negatively affect their health and safety, and quite possibly their future. We don't want that to happen to any family,” he added.

About MCYAF

The Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide Maine Township residents with a foundation to make healthier choices. MCYAF works with parents, schools, police, youth, government, health care providers, social service, faith and civic organizations toward a common goal of healthy youth. MCYAF secures federal and state grants as well as corporate and private donations for programs and services that promote improved health for residents. For more information, see www.mcyaf.com or contact us at (847) 858-7090.

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