

Face the Facts

FACE-IT's newsletter!

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 1

Partnered with the Harford County Department of Community Services' Office of Drug Control Policy

JULY 2008

FACE-IT

HIGHLIGHTS:

- FACE-IT's first newsletter issue!
- Updates from Humbled Blessings in Whiteford, MD
- Prescription drugs show to be the new trend among America's Youth
- Positive social norms can change misperceptions

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Symposium 2008 a success

The 5th Annual Harford County Symposium proved to be another great success. Held over two days, on June 25th and 26th, the symposium brought in over 500 people from Harford and other surrounding counties.

The first day opened with keynote speaker Larry Magid, who co-authored the book *MySpace Unraveled: A Parent's Guide to Teen Social Networking* with Anne Collier. Internet safety among teens has often been highlighted in recent news and Magid's keynote address was enjoyed by many as he spoke about this topic.

The day followed with three series of workshops, with titles ranging from "Unresolved Trauma: Why They Kill," "Motivational

Interviewing," "Food, Drugs and Rock & Roll," and "What's New in Substances of Abuse."

Also occurring was the 2nd Annual Youth Empowered to Succeed (Y.E.S.) Leadership Training. Over the course of the day approximately 60 youth, from groups such as the Boys and Girls Club,

The second day focused on an all-day workshop with Dr. Stanton E. Samenow. His address was titled "Inside the Criminal Mind: Juvenile...Adult...Out of Character," and he spoke of topics such as the offender's view of himself/herself and the role of mind-altering substances.

"We were very fortunate to host Larry Magid and Dr. Samenow, and to also have such a wide variety of workshops focusing on integral issues occurring right here in Harford County and nationwide. This was, by far, the most successful symposium we have held," Joe Ryan, Manager, Office of Drug Control Policy.



Apostolic Voice of Truth and Word of Faith learned leadership skills to use in their school and community.

FACE-IT Officers

- President:** Carol Taylor
1st VP-Treasurer: Debbie Blackwell
2nd VP-Community Liaison: Tom Lantieri
Recording Secretary: Libby Koenig
Corresponding Secretary: Robin Rossbach
Parliamentarian: Fred Koenig
Chaplain: Sylvia Bryant

Upcoming Events

- August 7** - Next FACE-IT meeting
September 16 - Faith-Based & Community Resource Fair
October 23 - Social Norms Conference
October 24 - Social Norms Work Group



The future with FACE-IT



Welcome to FACE-IT's very first newsletter! FACE-IT's Board of Directors decided it would be beneficial to send out a quarterly

FACE-IT's newsletter to all of our members.
table at the Our issues will be sent out in January, February, April, July and October and will feature interesting stories and updates.
2007 Faith-Based & Community Resource Fair

In every issue you will be able to find a section on Upcoming Events, FACE-IT Updates and a feature section on a Faith Partners Team.

You can also look for recent news and information on substance abuse and current faith initiatives to combat this problem.

If you would like to submit any information or stories you feel would be interesting to the FACE-IT community, please contact Robin Rossbach at raroossbach@harfordcountymd.gov.

We would love to hear from you!

What the heck is social norming?

The social norms model proposes that many young peoples' problem behaviors may partly be due to the desire or social pressure to conform to incorrectly perceived peer norms.

By creating and communicating an effective message that consistently tells the truth about actual norms, these misperceptions can change.

With repeated exposure of data driven positive messages, a greater proportion of the population begins to act in accord with the more accurately perceived social norms.

"This is an opportunity to let the youth lead the way with a positive outlook, to address issues related to substance abuse in our neighborhoods," Joe Ryan, Harford County Office of

Drug Control Policy Manager.

FACE-IT partnered with the Office of Drug Control Policy will be hosting the Social Norms Conference at the HEAT Center on October 23. Funded by the Drug Free Communities Grant, FACE-IT will be starting its planning on October 24 to develop their own Social Norms campaign for Harford County.

"This is an opportunity to let the youth lead the way with a positive outlook."

FACE-IT Updates

- The updated version of FACE-IT's By-Laws will be available at the meeting in August.
- Recent appreciation dinners were held June 2nd & 3rd to honor the Faith Partners Teams.
- The Harford County Symposium & Y.E.S. Leadership Training held on June 25th & 26th brought in over 500 people combined. Results will be shared at the August FACE-IT meeting.
- Edgewood Community Day occurred on June 21st with lots of food and fun!
- Be on the lookout for information regarding the annual Faith-Based & Community Resource Fair happening in September
- September is Recovery Month!



Emerging youth substance abuse trends

Overall, use rates for alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs among American adolescents, ages 12 to 17, have declined in the past six years. But even with this positive trend shining through the dark cloud of substance abuse, it is still equally important to raise awareness about substance abuse and the commonly misused substances, as Recovery Month approaches in September.

In 2006, the largest number of recent new users aged 12 or older emerged in the non-medical use of pain relievers and marijuana. Also in 2006, a survey done by the National Drug Intelligence

Center showed that over half of the people who use prescription-type psychotherapeutics (pain relievers, sedatives, stimulants) non-medically obtained the drugs “from a friend or relative for free.”

Following marijuana, prescription drugs have become the second most abused drug among youth aged 12 to 17; but for those aged 12 and 13, they are abused the most.

Just as people often don't realize the risks of misusing prescriptions drugs, nearly 1 in 7 youths between ages 12 and 17 believe there is little or no risk in taking methamphetamine on a regular basis.

**Information for this article found in the National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month toolkit publication. For more information visit www.recoverymonth.gov*



“In its beginning stages, the recovery team planned to take it slow, doing some of our own necessary recovery in the process. We are now beginning to see the fruits of our labor.”

Featuring Faith Partners

Humbled Blessings is the recovery program at Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church in Whiteford, MD. This is a recovery support group designed to assist those recovering from any type of addiction that has a negative effect on one's relationship with our Lord Jesus.

While “recovery program” usually brings to mind alcohol and drugs, there are many other addictions or problems in our lives. Food, control, anger, depression and relationship problems are all included in these types of issues and dependencies that can be addressed in this support group.

For a little over a year, this group has been meeting together on Friday evenings. In its beginning stages, the recovery team planned to take it slow, doing some of our own necessary recovery in the process. We are now beginning to see the fruits of our labor as more people join the group. We feel that this “slow, but steady” approach has benefited us greatly.

While we are following the model of Celebrate Recovery (a Purpose-Driven resource based on eight principles from the Beatitudes), we occasionally take a different path when led to do so by the Holy Spirit.

Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church is located at 1510 Deep Run Rd, Whiteford, MD 21160. Anyone wishing to attend may call Mary Jane at 410-692-7556 or Liz at 410-457-5139. Also, please feel free to simply show up at Mt. Vernon Church on Friday evenings at 7:00 PM! We look forward to seeing you there!

Article Submitted by Liz Johnson from Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church.

If you would like to submit an update about your Faith Partners Team to be featured in this section, please contact Robin Rossbach at rrossbach@harfordcountymd.gov.



FACE-IT

c/o Harford County Office of Drug
Control Policy

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**Faith Activated Community Empowering
Intervention Training**



“Partnering to make Harford County, MD drug-free!”