



B.O.L.D Coalition Receives 5 Year Grant

The BOLD Coalition (Building Our Lives Drug Free) was awarded a \$125,000 Drug Free Communities Support Program FY 2009 grant by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Coalition serves Fall River, Somerset, Swansea and Westport. As requirements are met, the Coalition will receive \$125,000 for five consecutive years to continue their work.

Tom Pasternak, BOLD Coalition Chairperson, was very happy to hear the news. “BOLD has accomplished so much—increasing awareness of substance abuse and how to prevent it, supporting compliance checks for tobacco and alcohol sales; leading the removal of drug paraphernalia from our stores in partnership with South Coast Tobacco Control and the Fall River Police, starting a SADD chapter at Henry Lord Middle School, co-sponsoring debates for elected officials, working with the District Attorney to crack down on underage drinking; and sponsoring the prescription drug take back—but there is so much more to do. We have huge problems with people abusing alcohol and drugs, and it will take a long-term community effort to turn the tide.”

The mission of BOLD is to prevent and reduce alcohol and drug abuse among youth by collaborating with the community to initiate policy change, raise awareness, modify social norms, education youth and adults, and promote healthy activities.

Nancy Paull, CEO of SSTAR which is the fiscal agent for BOLD, stated that “I am very pleased that our community has been awarded this prevention grant at a time when prevention services are needed more than ever. I believe it will have a positive impact on the quality of life for all Fall River residents and everyone in the area who is concerned about the growing epidemic of drug use in our community.”

Communications Director for BOLD, Kim Rodrigues, emphasized that youth use of substances is unacceptably high though we have seen a decrease in tobacco use. “Our number one problem is alcohol and our number two problem is marijuana. We must double our efforts to decrease youth use of these substances, and continue our efforts to decrease youth tobacco use. All members of our community can play a role in increasing the number of youth choosing to build their lives drug-free by educating themselves on the most effective ways to do this. Watch for BOLD events and publications where you can learn more about how you can play an effective role.”

Barbara Lamonde and Karin Wood, who are coordinating BOLD’s outreach to parents, both emphasized that adults, especially parents, have the power to prevent youth from using substances by 1) setting clear rules against use and talking about the harm these substances cause, and 2) monitoring children—who they are with, where they are, and what they are doing, including social media. Barbara said, “It takes all of us, not only parents, to create a healthy community for the youth of Greater Fall River.”

The Coalition will collaborate with its partners to achieve its goals by implementing these primary strategies (as well as others):

- (1.) Increase and strengthen community norms against underage use, particularly for alcohol and marijuana (increasing perception of risk/harm related to use);
- (2.) Reduce access to underage use of all substances through enforcement of laws and policies aimed at retailers and alcohol social host laws aimed at parents and other adults; and
- (3.) Promote teen empowerment and increase youth participation in alternative activities by supporting access as well as providing activities.

To meet the requirements of this grant over the next five years, BOLD needs the support of the community in the form of volunteer services and matching funding equal to \$125,000 this year, \$156,000 in the 2nd and 3rd year, and \$187,000 in the final two years. BOLD is pleased that the community has pulled together in partnership and contributed \$500,000 mostly in volunteer services to meet our obligation for matching funds for our last five years of funding. We welcome community contributions as we continue our work together, to create a health community for the youth of greater Fall River. To find out how you can help contact: BOLD’s Director Karen Fischer at kfischer@sstar.org or 508-324-3537.

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Fundraising Breakfast Y.E.A.H!

**Sept. 20th 10a.m to Noon
Eagles Performing Arts
Center
35 North Main St
Fall River**

**Call Susan Wolfson
508-730-3307**



Sticker Shock

Recently the BOLD Coalition, coordinated by Mike Aquiar, the Youth Coordinator for BOLD, participated in another Sticker Shock campaign in Fall River. The message of the campaign is to warn adults that it is illegal to purchase and provide alcohol to underage persons. Youth from T.A.D.A. and the Peaceful Coalition volunteered their time to visit participating stores. They placed stop sign stickers that display a warning message about the penalties for providing alcohol to anyone under 21 on beer cases, wine coolers and other alcohol products that might appeal to young drinkers. By participating in this project, youth are taking a proactive stand against underage drinking and its related problems. These initiatives are supported through a CMCA (Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol) grant received by B.O.L.D. Officer Jim Riley from the FRPD also assists in this project.

Below are pictures of the team in action.



Youth Experiencing Artistic Hope

YEAH Update

Yeah now has a steering committee, comprised of Amy Curry Basset, Brenda Burke, Amanda Donovan, Jerry Donovan, Ron Weisberger, Dave Weed and Susan Wolfson. They will guide strategic planning to fulfill the mission of YEAH: to stimulate, educate, and engage youth of all backgrounds and abilities, cultures, and languages in the many diverse forms of art, in an effort to actively create opportunities that will inspire youth to realize their potential.

These leaders, along with a larger committee, is organizing a fundraising breakfast on Sunday, September 20, 10 a.m. – noon at the Eagle Performing Arts Center at 35 North Main St. (Tickets: \$20, call 508-730-3307). In collaboration with the Narrows Center for the Arts, YEAH organizers have already held two events this summer at the Gates in Fall River. Both gave youth the opportunity to display their talents through dancing (hip hop and ballet), painting, playing instruments and reciting poetry.

BOLD initiated YEAH to fill an opportunity gap outside of school for youth interested in the arts. Youth engaged in positive activities are less likely to use substances and other destructive behavior. Both youth and adults are encouraged to join YEAH and help create a youth center for the arts. **Please call 508-730-3307 for more information.**

**If you have any comments, or suggestions or if you would like to volunteer please email at mbrisson@sstar.org.
Want to receive the newsletter by email? Let us know!**



Stores That Care

The BOLD Coalition honored neighborhood stores again this year for their assistance in eliminating drug paraphernalia in their stores, being diligent in not selling cigarettes to anyone under 18 and keeping their property clean and neat. Stores that sell liquor were also checked to ensure that they had no citations for selling alcohol to minors. Mayor Correia presented all the stores with a Mayoral Citation recognizing their contributions.



BOLD GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS



Fall River Elections

The citizens of Fall River have a big responsibility this election year with choices to be made for the positions of mayor, school committee and the city council. The BOLD Coalition, along with the Herald News sponsored a mayoral debate on September 3 in the BCC auditorium. The debate was well attended and the audience was able to hear the candidates' opinions on many issues.

Among the issues discussed were reducing the Fall River high school drop out rate, creating much better school and public transportation for youth, and committing to working with the BOLD Coalition to ensure our community has wide ranging substance abuse prevention strategies in place.



Primary Elections

September 15,



**Opportunity for Interested Parents and Professionals
A School-Based and Community-Based Program**



Guiding Good Choices Program

**An award winning substance abuse prevention workshop for
parents of children ages 9-14.**

The program, offered by trained parents and school staff, has shown the following results:

- * improvement in family relationships***
- * better decision making by youth***

Two sessions are available at the Fall River Boys and Girls Club

Session 1 : September 16, 2009

Session 2: October 14, 2009

5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

**Babysitting available for children over 5
years of age**

For further information and to register

Please Contact

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