

~~ADDICTION~~ COALITION

2013 Mid-Year Report

Eliminating addiction in Central Alabama through...

Prevention

Awareness

Resources

We are excited to have developed some wonderful new partnerships and opportunities during the first six months of 2013. Through local partnerships, we are working with students from eighteen schools. We sponsored Addiction Coalition Chapters at four local high schools during the 2012-2013 school year. We are looking to expand Chapters into four more schools during the 2013-2014 school year. Looking at the first six months of this year compared to 2012, we have increased visits to our website (addictioncoalition.org) by 7%. Working with the faith community, we have helped them be aware of the issue and equipped them to help those in need.

I encourage you to continue reading about the amazing start to 2013 that we have had. We look forward to expanding our efforts with your support in the coming months, as we are “committed to eliminating addiction in Central Alabama.”

J. Sándor Cheka, III
Executive Director

Summer 2013

Even during the summer, the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is hard at work. The YAC consists of leadership team members from Chapters as well as youth who are interested in starting a Chapter at their school. This summer, YAC members are participating in a service project at First Light Women’s Shelter. They will also participate in an overnight Leadership Retreat in August to prepare for the new school year. Last year, the Leadership Retreat had five members in attendance representing two schools, and we are expecting over 40 members this year from over 10 schools!

**"The Addiction Coalition has inspired me and showed me that it is possible to work together as young individuals and come up with ideas to teach others to be drug free."
Gabbrionna (Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School)**

Prevention

Addiction Coalition Chapters are continuing to expand in the 2013-2014 school year. We will add two new Chapters this fall! We have also added two new schools to the Youth Advisory Council (John Carroll Catholic High School and Spain Park High School).

Highlights from the 2012-2013 school year are below and also a comparison of abstinence rates from the 2011-2012 school year to the 2012-2013 school year. These numbers reflect responses from students involved in our Chapters at the end of the year. We collect this information through an anonymous survey. One item to note is that we saw an increase in marijuana usage. Our youth are hearing mixed messages from the legalization of marijuana in other states and seeing a shift in the culture around marijuana usage. We will continue to address the facts about this drug in the coming year. **According to the latest available statistics, our alcohol abstinence rate is 13.9% higher and our marijuana abstinence rate is 3% higher than the rate for the State of Alabama.**

“If our humanity is ruled by addiction then what is the purpose of humanity at all? If we want to progress as a species we must be free of all possible limitations. Addiction is simply a limitation we have not set free. To progress we must unite, then our humanity is limitless.” Joseph (Alabama School of Fine Arts)

2012-2013 School Year Highlights

732 youth reached at the Alabama School of Fine Arts, Center Point High School, Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High and Vincent High School

Youth Advisory Council: 18 schools represented

Service Projects: 101 youth participated in projects at Aletheia House, The Foundry and Olivia’s House

Outreach Campaigns included: 7 Guest Speakers, Red Ribbon Week, Drug Facts Week, Spring Break, Prom and an End of Year Drug-Free Day

Chapter Year-End Results	‘11-’12	‘12-’13
Alcohol Abstinence Rate	78.3%	80.4%
Marijuana Abstinence Rate	85.1%	82.2%
Hard Drugs Abstinence Rate	91.5%	100%

Awareness

- 1,134 people reached through community events and educational presentations
- One Prefix event hosted at Liberty Crossings United Methodist Church

Resources

- 630 visitors have accessed treatment information through the online resource directory
- 103 providers listed on the directory

“I got involved with the Addiction Coalition because helping others is like breathing for me-absolutely necessary! The AC means so much more than I can explain in two sentences, but to sum it up, it means giving someone knowledge to help them veer away from drugs or with their second chance in life.” Laila (Vincent High School)

The Addiction Coalition
An Initiative of The Freedom Source

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