

# ADDICTION COALITION

an initiative of  
theFreedomSource.com

## Mid Year Report 2012

Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting first half of 2012. While we have discovered some discouraging news including: the impact of synthetic drugs, 1 of 10 adolescents in the country is smoking pot 20+ times a month, and that 1 in 5 of "The Greatest Generation" is suffering from mental illness and substance abuse issues. Our organization has served over 2,461 people on the addictioncoalition.org website. We completed the first year of our pilot Addiction Coalition Chapters in two local high schools, finished our second year of prevention programming in a local middle school, enhanced our directory with a map and search function, and grew our relationships with local providers through the Birmingham Recovery Network.

We encourage you to spend a few moments to read some of the triumphs we have accomplished in the first half of the year. We look forward to expanding our efforts with your support in the coming months, as we are "committed to eliminating addiction in Central Alabama."

### OUR MISSION:

TO SUPPORT AND CREATE EFFECTIVE, CULTURE-CHANGING COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS THROUGH AREA CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND EMPLOYERS

TO FOSTER A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION TO ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT, TREATMENT AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY TECHNIQUES

TO BE THE CATALYST IN INCREASING CAPACITY FOR TREATMENT, BOTH YOUTH AND ADULT, TO DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE SOCIAL COST AND IMPACT OF ADDICTION

### Addiction Coalition Chapters

We concluded the inaugural year of our pilot program, the Addiction Coalition Chapters at the Alabama School of Fine Arts and Center Point High School. We saw a trend in improved attitudes and also decreased drug use with the students who participated in our program. Our program employs character education to change the focus of the prevention message from a negative command (Don't do Drugs) to a message of positive life change. The three points we concentrate on are: who do you want to be; small decisions matter; and service to others.

We worked with 10% of the student populations through the chapters. We also continued our work with Cornerstone Schools of Alabama with the middle school evidence based prevention programming, "Too Good For Drugs." We worked with 164 students over the past school year and are currently working with students and administration from four additional area schools.

Warm Regards,

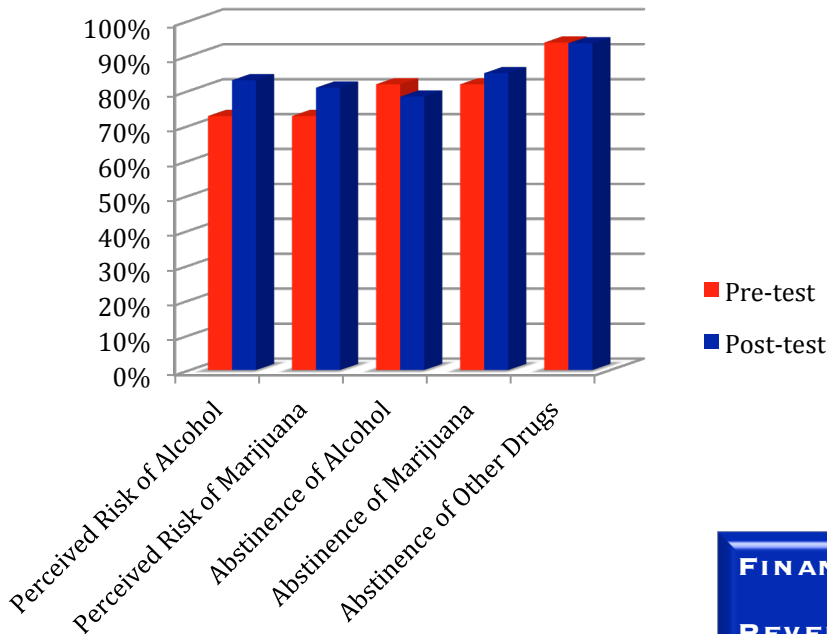
J. Sandor Cheka, III  
Executive Director

### WHY OUR STUDENTS ARE INVOLVED:

I HAVE SEEN HOW IT HAS AFFECTED MY BROTHER AND UNCLE AND WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT MY SCHOOL.  
— KAHILIL

I WANT TO CHANGE THE WAY MY FRIENDS LOOK AT DRUGS BECAUSE THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THE CONSEQUENCES. — KATIE

Our results are better than the standardized National and Alabama Pride survey results: 14% higher abstinence rate for alcohol and 3% higher for marijuana. One of the issues we did see in the surveys was increased usage around prom, which we will address next year. We are also in the process of having our survey tool evaluated by local counselors and Birmingham Southern College. We will continue to strive to be responsible stewards by keeping account of our efforts.



[Resource Directory](#)

FINANCIAL REPORT:	
REVENUE:	\$ 127,837.83
EXPENSES:	\$ 90,892.68

TheFreedomSource.com has helped 676 individuals find information on substance abuse and lead them to local solutions for recovery services.

In an effort to be more user friendly, we have added effective tools to the website. First we added a more detailed search function that will help narrow the resources based on the needs of the user. Secondly, we added a mapping function that will help people see where the resources are in proximity to their location. They can also drill down for the type of provider they need.

[Birmingham Recovery Network](#)

The Birmingham Recovery Network (BRN) is a group of providers who are working together to develop systemic change for the community. The BRN strives to find the gaps of care in the community's network of providers and become the catalyst for filling the void with current service providers. The BRN also is focusing on creating consistent scorekeeping measurements between providers that will better serve the client while reducing relapse and costs to the community.

[Community Involvement](#)

The Addiction Coalition is building on its recognition as a Coalition to Model by the Dept. of Health and Human Services. We have had numerous opportunities to help the community through T.V., radio, and the newspaper interviews. We have been asked to help other states and communities through consultation and training aids, which allows us to learn about different approaches and gain knowledge of what works.

The Addiction Coalition is preparing to accelerate our efforts through an awareness campaign that will help to expand our mission and grow community support.