



# news for Community Leaders

## Calendar of Events

### Drug-Free Coalition Meetings 2010

- September 9
- October 14
- November 11
- December 9

LaSalle Springs Middle School 3:30-5 pm

### Coalition Executive Committee Meetings

- August 23
- September 20
- October 18
- November 15
- December 13

Crestview Middle School 3:30-5 pm.

### Medication Take-Back September 25, 2010

## Contact Us

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## Rockwood Drug-Free Coalition

## Rockwood Young Leaders Academy A Resounding Success

The inaugural Rockwood Young Leaders Academy (RYLA) was held July 29-31, 2010 at the Babler Outdoor Education Center and was a tremendous success. 32 high school students attended the event resulting in leadership teams returning to all four Rockwood high schools and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Valley Park. Each team returns equipped with a vision statement, identified goals and strategic ideas for accomplishing those goals.

The Young Leaders Academy provided high school participants with an intense program covering (a) assess-

ment of leadership assets, (b) vision development and communication, (c) confronting and resolving barriers, (d) effective problem identification strategies and (e) organizational tools. Participants worked in teams representing their school or church and in large group sessions facilitated by regional leaders.

A highlight of the Academy was a presentation by Kate Tansey, L.C.S.W., Interim

Director of the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund. Ms. Tansey shared her experiences in developing the successful *Proposi-*

*tion 1* ballot initiative that now provides millions of dollars for healthcare services to children in St. Louis County. Ms. Tansey's story provided Academy participants with a graphic, local example of the work and challenges that are a part of successful community leadership.

Throughout the upcoming year, RYLA teams will receive ongoing mentoring support from the Rockwood Drug-Free Coalition and the Rockwood Department of Prevention Services.

## A New School Year: New Challenges, New Opportunities

The arrival of the new school year provides an opportunity to reflect on prevention leadership success as well as identify next steps in continuing the progress made. The continuing, gradual drop in rates of alcohol and marijuana abuse among Rockwood students (2006, 2008 and 2010 assessments) and the decline in disciplinary infractions for alcohol and drug related offenses (89 for the 2009-2010 school year) provide a basis for encouragement.

Furthering the progress of Rockwood prevention will require the involvement of community leaders in helping to establish important prevention programs. The impact of two projects in particular will be enhanced with

the participation of community leaders.

The Rockwood Drug-Free Coalition launched the *Neighborhood of Excellence* program in the spring of 2010. This program is intended to connect youth and adults in collaborative, community projects. Neighborhoods that complete three projects will be recognized by the Rockwood Board of Education as a *Neighborhood of Excellence*.

Demonstrating 'unity across communities' is the goal of the *Community Leaders Pledge Project*. The 2009-2010 pledge campaign gathered over 200 signatures from leaders across our region in support of safe, drug-free schools and neighborhoods. The 2010-2011 cam-

campaign will begin in October 2010 with the goal of including every community leader serving Rockwood youth and families. Please encourage your colleagues to add their names to the list of united leaders.

For more information on these projects, please contact Ken McManus or Renee Heney at 636-733-2135.

### Medication Take-Back

September 25, 2010

9a.m. – 1p.m.

#### Locations:

- Ballwin Police Department
- Clarkson-Valley City Hall
- Ellisville Police Department
- Eureka Police Department
- Fenton City Hall

**For information call  
636-938-2363**

To become involved with the Drug-Free Coalition or to get more information about its mission, goals and programs, visit us at [RockwoodCoalition.org](http://RockwoodCoalition.org)

