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This Year’s Focus

Marijuana

Most fail to understand the dangers and risks associated with Marijuana use. Marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug of choice among teens today. Marijuana contains the psychoactive chemical tetrahydrocannabinol, commonly known as THC, along with 400 other health affecting agents.

Facts About Marijuana

- The California Healthy Kids Survey indicated that 18% of 9th graders and 23% of 11th graders within Santa Barbara County used Marijuana at least once last year. (CHEKS)
- Marijuana use in teens causes poor decision-making ability and lack of personal motivation. (OJJDP)
- Teens who used Marijuana last year experienced a drop in academic performance 4 times greater than their peers who were non-users. (OJJDP)
- Teens who use Marijuana at an early age are 9 times more likely to experiment with other harsher drugs later in life. (OJJDP)

Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley Newsletter

“Get High on Life” High School Dance

On Saturday, June 6, 2009 Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley and collaborating volunteers hosted the first annual “Get High on Life” high school dance for local high school seniors in the Santa Maria Valley.

The goal of “Get High on Life” was to show high school students that it is possible to have fun hanging out with their peers without feeling the pressure to use drugs or alcohol in order to have a good time. This sober event was held at Honda of Santa Maria and over 250 local teens attended. Activities at the dance included: card games, a prize raffle, healthy snacks and music by 95.7 *The Beat* and several local live bands. Due to the great success of this event Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley will be providing more sober events for local teens in the near future.



Every 15 Minutes - Alcohol Prevention Program

Every 15 minutes someone dies as the result of an alcohol related collision.

Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley, the California Highway Patrol, and the Santa Maria Police Department, along with many other community agencies held this years “Every 15 Minutes” program at Pioneer Valley High School.

Unique in design and powerful in impact, “Every 15 Minutes” is an educational experience that reminds us all of the dangers associated with driving while under the influence. Each year a mock car crash is staged at a local high school within the community. Students get the opportunity to see first hand the harsh but true reality of what happens as a result to driving under the influence. The two day event was a big success in reaching many of the students at Pioneer Valley High School.

One Pioneer Valley High School student stated, “Since my participation in the Every 15 Minutes program. I have learned to appreciate everyone around me because they can be taken away in a matter of seconds. Also, I am looking forward to spreading the word about this and how it can affect others. This has completely changed my look on things, especially alcohol.”



What’s New? Our newly updated website is up and running!

Check it out! www.FightingBackSMV.com

Past events, upcoming events, forms, program information and more!

President's Corner

Alice Patino, Fighting Back President and City Council member speaks about the Youth Involvement Group's coalition efforts to reduce drug and alcohol use among teens in the community. "These kids are going to be like ambassadors for the Santa Maria community. Kids listen to kids when it comes to issues like this."

Executive Directors Corner

I am pleased to announce that Drug Test kits will soon be available for purchase through Fighting back Santa Maria Valley. Please stay connected to our monthly newsletter to receive additional information about purchasing the kits.

-Teresa Menchaca

Medical Perspective by:

Carrick Adam, M.D.,
M.S.P.H.

Dr. Carrick Adam, past president speaks about drug and alcohol use, "The younger you start drinking or using drugs, the more likely you will become dependent on drugs and alcohol as an adult."

Current Employment Opportunities

Current Openings:

- SECRETARY (Bi-lingual)
- Check Connect & Respect Coordinator
- Peer Educator

For more information or details on each position and/or information on how to apply please visit:

www.FightingBackSMV.com

Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley is an equal opportunity employer.

FBSMV's Programs & Events

Visit our website: www.fightingbacksmv.com for additional information on each of our Programs & Events.

NEW PROGRAMS

- RCCP (Resolving Conflict Creatively Program)
- Class Action
- Check, Connect, and Respect
- Loving Solutions
- Shoulder Tap
- Social Host Ordinance
- Educational Training for Alcohol Prevention (ID & License Education)
- Parent Network Directory
- TV and Radio - Public Service Announcements

- Life Interrupted
- Sober Event for College-age kids
- Gang and Violence Prevention Task Force
- Underage Drinking Task Force

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- Parent Project
- Youth Educational Classes
- Recovery Support Groups (SMHS, PVHS, RHS, RHS, Fesler JHS)
- Town Hall Meetings
- Spanish Forums

- Civic Presentations
- Recovery Task Force
- Every 15 Minutes

ONGOING EVENTS

- Walk for Recovery/Recovery Celebration
- Peace Week
- Free 4 The Weekend
- Methamphetamine Candlelight Vigil
- Comedy Night
- Valley Superstar Showdown
- Christmas Parade

FBSMV's Staff

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Welcome to our newest staff member, **JADA CLARK** to fill the position of **Programs Director**. Jada grew up here in the Santa Maria Valley. She graduated from Ernest Righetti High School in 2004, and attended Allan Hancock College for two years where she received an AA in Liberal Arts. Jada continued her education at California State University, Fullerton where she studied Kinesiology with an emphasis in Teacher Education. She interned with the Placentia Yorba Linda School District working with grades K-12 as a student teacher aide. She moved back to the Santa Maria Valley to pursue a career working with area youth. Jada states, "I am excited to be back home and to make a difference in the lives of young people within the community. I am eager to take on the challenge of *Programs Director* and I will be focusing my attention on improving and enhancing the current programs offered at Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley." Please join us in welcoming Jada aboard.

Mission Statement

The mission of Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley is to make a difference by offering a variety of prevention and educational services to the Santa Maria Valley that help to address problems of risks associated with: alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; violence; teen pregnancy; abuse; crime; school dropout; and other related social issues.