

STEPS Coalition Newsletter

Making substance abuse prevention a priority in the Southington community!



Thank you for reading the STEPS Coalition newsletter. For more information about STEPS, please [click here](#) to visit our website. Don't forget to like us on Facebook!

#SouthingtonSTEPS

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Everyone in our nation has heard the term 'Opioid Epidemic' and drug addiction has certainly made its presence known throughout the country. This makes substance abuse prevention a priority now more than ever. As a community, we need to be proactive in reaching our kids before they engage in risk-taking behaviors. STEPS focuses on a comprehensive, multi-sector and data driven approach to prevent youth substance use in our community. We are able to use our Coalition to educate, reduce access and change policies to make Southington the best place for our youth. [CADCA](#) is an excellent resource to gain

more understanding about prevention and coalition work.

How YOU Can Take Action



Did you know you are your children's first line of defense?

Especially when it comes to medicine and what might be prescribed to them! Don't be afraid to ask questions and say NO when you don't feel comfortable with something!

Board Member Spotlight



Nobody is cooler than Mark Pooler! Mark has done an amazing job with leading our Youth Development work-group and spearheading Good Deeds Week. He has kept

our work group organized, on task and focused on producing outcomes! We are thankful to have Mark be such an active member of our STEPS Advisory board!

STEPS Staff on the Move!



STEPS staff Kelly Leppard & Megan Albanese were joined by Advisory Board Member (and spelling extraordinaire) Heather Clinger to make the 'No Buzzin' Around' team that participated in the Southington Education Foundation Annual Spelling Bee. These Bees had a blast!

STEPS Youth Council Update



Although we will be sad to see our Seniors leave, we know their legacy will live on through the new members that will be elected into the STEPS Youth Council for the 2017-2018 school year! Interested in

finding our more about the Youth Council application process? Click [HERE!](#)

Asset of the Month: Service to Others.

A young person serves in the community one or more hours per week.

To help the young people in Southington understand the importance of this asset, STEPS, with Board member Mark Pooler as leader of this initiative, participated in Good Deeds week. Click [here](#) to see all the pictures of the Good Deeds being done in our community!



STEPS supports the Search Institute's research that developing assets in youth help build a strong foundation and deter youth from engaging in risk taking behaviors.

Upcoming Events

Please join us at Southington High School on May 9, 2017. For more information, please click [here](#).

WHAT EVERY ADULT SHOULD KNOW...

ABOUT THE DRUGS THEIR KIDS ARE FACING

This presentation will help families to understand current drug trends, prevention efforts and agencies that can help with substance abuse. Guest speakers will include Brian Stranieri Southington High Principal, Chris Bartolotta from the State Police, Pat Rehmer Sr. Vice President of Hartford Healthcare, Kevin Naranjo Southington Police Officer, and Kelly Leppard Prevention Specialist with STEPS. The presentation is aimed to educate parents and guardians on the following:

- How you can prevent youth substance abuse
- How substance abuse begins
- Connections between alcohol consumption and future substance abuse
- Myths on specific drugs
- Social host liability

Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Time: 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Location: SHS Auditorium

Parent Resource Tables available in the Cafeteria immediately after the presentation:

MATCH | Rushford | Southington Police Department | State Police | Health Department | STEPS
Wheeler Clinic | CAPP (Connecticut Association of Prevention Professionals) | Youth Services

Sponsored by SHS Administration, STEPS Coalition and SPD

For more information contact: SHS at 860-628-3229 ex 229

FREE to all adults
No registration required

Take the PROMise!

Make the
PROMise
to be Drug and Alcohol Free on Prom Night.



Have you taken the PROMise? Visit [here](#) to find out how YOU can participate!

Southington Serves



Looking for volunteers to help out at an event or on a community project? Visit the [Southington Serves section](#) on our town website to find the form to submit your volunteer opportunities.

Looking for volunteers?



SOUTHINGTON SERVES IS THE SOLUTION!

Visit www.southington.org/southingtonserves

Volunteer opportunities can be anything from a few hours to full day events. Students throughout the Southington community are always looking for ways to get involved.

Southington Serves is brought to you by the Southington STEPS Coalition.

Questions? Contact Youth Services at 860-276-6281.

STEPS | 860-276-6285 | southingtonsteps@gmail.com |
<http://www.southingtonsteps.org/>
c/o Youth Services
196 North Main Street
Southington, CT 06489

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