

SOUTHINGTON STEPS COALITION NEWSLETTER



MAKING SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PREVENTION A PRIORITY IN THE
SOUTHINGTON COMMUNITY

June/July 2017

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PREVENTION AWARENESS

Why is adolescence a critical time for preventing drug addiction? Early use of drugs increases a person's chances of developing addiction. Remember, drugs change brains and this can lead to addiction and other serious problems. So, preventing early use of drugs or alcohol may go a long way in reducing these risks. If we can prevent young people from experimenting with drugs, we can prevent drug addiction.

Some of the ways STEPS makes prevention a priority in Southington:

- Involvement of the media to increase awareness.
- Training of alcohol-retail establishments, including

- information on preventing sales to underage patrons.
- Compliance checks conducted by law enforcement to reduce illegal alcohol sales to underage patrons.
- Reduction of alcohol availability through regulation of alcohol outlets.

To read more prevention strategies, click [here](#).



TAKE ACTION

With summer parties and BBQ's upon us, it can be in our very own backyard that young people gain access to alcohol! Stay vigilant!

Drinking alcohol is dangerous for kids and teens and sometimes for adults, too. Alcohol is a drug, and it is the drug most abused by teens. Many kids have their first drink at an early age, as young as 10 or 11 or even younger.

It's easy for kids to get the wrong message about alcohol. They might see their parents drink or watch TV commercials that make drinking look like a lot of fun. You might see people drinking and watching sports together or having a big party.

To read more, click [here](#).

STEPS ADVISORY BOARD

As we say goodbye to old friends and bring in new, one thing remains especially clear: our Advisory Board is what makes STEPS an important part of the community. We wish our retiring Advisory Board members the best of luck and are excited to welcome new members in the fall!



A YEAR IN REVIEW

We have had a busy year here at STEPS, making substance abuse prevention a priority in the Southington community. Fifth and Eighth Grade Transition Days, prevention campaigns, community forums, presenting at the first annual Connecticut Prevention Conference, Asset Building Classrooms, and a trip to the CADCA

conference in Washington, D.C. are a few of our highlights. Be sure to check our [website](#) and follow our [Facebook](#) page to stay up to date! Thanks for a great year!

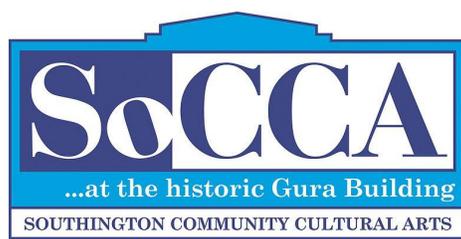




UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY FRIENDS

SoCCA FILM FESTIVAL

Southington Community Cultural Arts (SoCCA) is holding its first Short Film Contest.



It is open to anyone in Southington ages 14-18. With current technology, all you need is an iPhone!

Create your own short film (3-5 minutes) for a chance to have it screened at our building during the Apple Harvest Festival. Make it about whatever you like. All we ask is that you include an apple somewhere in the footage.

Entries are due on September 1st along with a small submission fee of \$20.

Awards will be announced by the judges on the first Friday of this year's Apple Harvest Festival. Pre-registration is encouraged, either by email (southingtonarts@gmail.com) or over the phone (860-276-1581), just so we have an idea of how much participation we're looking at. Get those cameras rolling!

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Helping in the Community



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.

[Read More Information Here](#)

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