



Partners for a Drug Free Chisago County Kicks Off in Style

80 community members gathered at Hazelden’s Cork Center on January 18th to celebrate the kickoff of the Partners for a Drug Free Chisago County initiative. “It’s not really a new initiative, but a declaration of support and recognition of the tremendous efforts displayed through the years to build a drug free Chisago County,” explained Tom Koplitz, Executive Director, Community Partnership with Youth & Families. “To get this kind of turnout and commitment to continue our work together is really exciting!”

Real Life Stories

William C, Moyers, Hazelden’s Vice President of External Affairs and Costella Green, Public Health Advisor from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention in Washington D.C. both delivered inspirational presentations, sharing their own personal experiences with substance abuse. Moyers started experimenting with marijuana in high school, drank beer (legally) at the age of 18, and started binge drinking in college. He moved on to hard drugs and eventually was living homeless and on the streets of New York. “Recovery and treatment saved my life! Treatment and prevention work!” Green shared her story of coming from a family of addiction. She found help with community groups ‘just like this one.’ “They supported me, mentored me. People like you saved my life!” She also reminded us that “there are people just like me who need your help. You can all be part of the solution.” Green became a college track star at the University of Oklahoma and ran for the US Olympic team. She now manages Drug Free Communities grants in western United States.

Local Connections

Chisago Lakes High School Principal Dave Ertl, past board chair for Community Partnership spoke of the power of people working together. “Prevention is the heart and soul of this Partnership and we need everyone to be involved!” Ertl encouraged everyone in attendance to formally sign on as Partners for a Drug Free Chisago County.

Koplitz closed the celebration by thanking everyone for their great work, and to Loretta Anderson and Hazelden for their tremendous support of Community Partnership through the years. “What a wonderful opportunity we have to work together to build a drug free Chisago County. To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe. Let’s dream big, and believe in each other!”

***Next Partners Celebration:
Thursday, April 19th 11:30 - 1:00
More details forthcoming***

***Call us today at 651-674-4085 to sign on as a
Partner for a Drug Free Chisago County!***



Partners for a Drug Free Chisago County is a formal arrangement for cooperation and collaboration between groups or sectors of the community, in which each group retains its identity but all agree to work together toward a common goal - building a drug free Chisago County.

