

SAFE in Northern Michigan

(S.A.F.E. - Substance Abuse Free Environment)

SAFE in Northern Michigan is a coalition of schools, organizations, and individuals which envisions a community where youth do not use tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. The mission is to partner with school, families, and community in prevention efforts towards drug and alcohol use amongst youth by identifying resources and increasing public understanding of issues in the community.

Youth substance abuse prevention is an identified priority of the Community Foundation, and one to which several thousands of dollars have been devoted over the years. In 2007 the Community Foundation held a convening to address the issue and SAFE evolved from that community gathering. The coalition now exists thanks to Community Foundation staff time and grant dollars as well as the involvement of important local organizations.

Since the beginning of the school year, SAFE has put on a series of projects, including **The Napkin Project**, giving school sports boosters napkins featuring a substance abuse free message to distribute at fall games, **The Homecoming Project**, with retailer education, message bracelets, and MIP/Social Host Law tickets on cars, **The Grade Card Stuffer Project**, a mailing in collaboration with Charlevoix and Emmet Schools to give information about the consequences of underage drinking and the benefits of remaining substance abuse free, and **The Holiday Project**, providing a candy cane and sticker to area students reminding them that "Holiday Spirits Don't Have to Come in a Bottle".

In upcoming months, area movie theaters will feature SAFE messages from SAFE Youth members, SAFE Youth will organize and hold a two-county dance, and SAFE will assist with the Sheriff's Mailing on Social Host Laws. For more information, visit www.safeinm.org.

