



Preventing Youth Violence, Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use

## eShare Newsletter

June 2010

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Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading our second eShare newsletter. We've taken some time off from the newsletter to focus on other big changes in the organization: Since you've heard from us, we have moved, launched a [redesigned website](#), set up a [page on Facebook](#), celebrated our 20th anniversary, and hired some new staff members. We also had a change in leadership this year. Former Executive Director Mary Segawa left TOGETHER! after 14 years for a prevention post with the Liquor Control Board, and I was appointed the new Executive Director in March.

We appreciate your patience, and you will hear much more from us in the future. Please read the news that TOGETHER! has to share. Also, if you have a moment, check out our new website and become our fan on Facebook, where we post organization news, events and pictures, as well as relevant prevention links. I look forward to serving you.



Sincerely,

Jim Cooper  
TOGETHER! Executive Director

### Prescription Drug Drop Boxes

Thurston County officials and TOGETHER!, collaborating through the Prescription Drug Task Force, have opened two drop boxes for the safe and convenient disposal of old medications. One is installed in front of the Sheriff's Office and the other is at Tumwater City Hall. These are the only places in the county where narcotics can legally be disposed of. The Sheriff's Office bin has been open since January and has collected more than 320 pounds of prescription drugs so far. 85 pounds were deposited in the



Tumwater bin in April, the first month that bin was open.

[Click here for a list of all drop boxes in Washington state.](#)

[Click here to read the press release, with instructions and details.](#)

### Kids March in Procession of the Species



The children and youth that attend TOGETHER!'s Evergreen Villages Neighborhood Center, along with the center's staff, created costumes for this year's Procession of the Species and marched in it!

The Procession is a very popular annual event in Olympia that celebrates the natural world, with themes of earth, air, water and fire. The Neighborhood Center group focused on water, making fish and water-animal hats, blue ponchos and brightly painted drums made from water jugs. They also blew bubbles as they marched, and danced to the marchers playing band instruments.

The Neighborhood Center serves the families of Evergreen Villages, a HUD-supported apartment complex on Olympia's west side. The children and youth that attend the center find mentoring, homework help, social and emotional support, and other benefits. Creating the themed costumes together and marching as a group helps them work on creativity, team-building and following directions, as well as allows them to feel like they are a special part of something ... which they are!

You can see more pictures of the Procession of the Species participants, as well as other pictures from the Neighborhood Center, in our [Evergreen Villages album on Facebook](#).

### Erase It Program Kicks Off



#### Events help to clean up graffiti

TOGETHER! has hired a gang prevention coordinator, Brittany Sill, to work on gang prevention and graffiti cleanup. The program is

called "Erase It: Record - Report - Remove." It started off with the Spring Clean-Up event in March and continued with several more graffiti removal days. If your homeowners association or citizen group would like to clean up graffiti, [contact TOGETHER!](#) for a free cleanup kit. Supplies are limited.

[Click here for more information on the program.](#)

TOGETHER! prevents youth violence and substance abuse through awareness, advocacy and action to support youth and families. Our vision is for all young people in Thurston County communities to be supported, healthy, safe and valued.

To learn more, visit us at [www.ThurstonTOGETHER.org](http://www.ThurstonTOGETHER.org) or call us at 360-493-2230.

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