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Prevention Policy Day

Youth Get Chance to Educate Lawmakers on Issues



Every year, youth volunteers and TOGETHER! staff participate in Prevention Policy Day (formerly Policy Maker Education Day) on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This year's event focused on the "Let's Draw the Line" campaign, drawing the line between youth and alcohol.

While speaking to state representatives and senators, youth advocates from throughout Western Washington focused on prevention issues important to them, like prescription drug controls and secondhand smoke regulation in vehicles, as well as the "Let's Draw the Line" message of the Washington State Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking.

A midday rally in the Capitol rotunda featured TOGETHER! Executive Director Jim Cooper, Veronica Marohn from Gov. Chris Gregoire's office, and Lt. Gov. Brad Owen speaking about the importance of drawing the line between youth and alcohol, tobacco and substance abuse. Two youth participants also shared their poignant personal experiences with how alcohol and drugs have affected their lives.

[Find more pictures from Prevention Policy Day on our Facebook page.](#)



Youth and staff at the Capitol for Prevention Policy Day on Jan. 17, co-sponsored by TOGETHER!, the Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention, and Safe Streets

You're Invited to Honor Our Champions!



The 10th Annual Champions for Kids Celebration will be March 7. This year, individual seats are available for the first time. Come help us honor the more than 2 dozen members of this community that have been honored for going above and beyond to serve children and youth.

The night will include dinner, a raffle and a program honoring the Champions, who are selected by local businesses and agencies. This year, we will also be recognizing the Champions from the previous 9 years as we celebrate "A Champion's Legacy." **If you are a past Champion, we encourage you to attend!**

[Click here to view the invitation.](#)

[Click here to register or get more information.](#)

Lots of Prevention Events This Month

- [CADCA's 21st annual National Leadership Forum, Feb. 7-10.](#) This is the nation's largest meeting for community prevention leaders, treatment professionals and researchers. This year's conference theme is focused

on the future of alcohol, tobacco and other prevention, treatment and research. It will help coalition leaders and prevention professionals map and move forward on their own paths. [Click here for more information on the forum.](#)

- **Children of Alcoholics Week, Feb. 13-19.** An estimated 25 percent of all children in the United States (about 27.8 million) are affected by or exposed to a family alcohol problem. During the annual Children of Alcoholics Week, the [National Association for Children of Alcoholics](#) would like individuals and organizations to spread the word on how frequently children are affected by a parent's suffering from alcohol/drug addictions. You could speak out and advocate for these families, encourage local governments to make official proclamations of COA Week, or distribute materials about the week. [Free materials to distribute \(posters, pamphlets and more\) are available by clicking here.](#)
- **Great American Spit Out, Feb. 24.** Join the Great American Spit Out on Feb. 24 and say goodbye to smokeless tobacco once and for all. [Click here for resources, information and tools to help you quit](#), including things like chatting one-on-one with a quit coach and an online widget that allows you to track your quit statistics, including money saved.

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 online](#) or call us at 360-493-2230.

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TOGETHER! | 418 Carpenter Rd SE Ste 203 | Lacey | WA | 98503