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eShare

October 2011

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Busy October Bees

Expanding Programs, Successful Events

We've got a lot going on around TOGETHER! right now! Here are some highlights:

- The Social Norms poster campaign** has expanded from 2 schools to 4. These posters tell kids the truth that MOST of their peers do NOT use alcohol, tobacco and drugs. The posters use stats from the school they're in. The high schools involved are Tumwater, Black Hills, Tenino, and Rainier. This year we are looking for funding that will help us add Social Norms campaigns to even more schools. Our flagship campaign at Tumwater High has been extremely successful at reducing usage rates among the students.



- Our after-school tutoring programs** at McLane and Chambers Prairie elementary schools kick off this month for the school year. Academically at-risk kids receive homework help, social skills-building, exercise, snacks, transportation home, and most importantly, a supportive environment with caring adults who listen. All this for free to the participants!
- Lacey Family Library Nights** also start this month.

Families get a chance to hang out together and boost literacy skills.

- **At the end of October**, TOGETHER! will send a contingent of 20 to 25 people to the annual state Prevention Summit in Yakima. We attend every year but this is the biggest group we've ever sent! Those going are a mix of youth (the most important element!), community coalition members, and TOGETHER! staff. Grants and scholarships help pay for the trip.
- **You may recall the car wash** announcement in last month's eShare--the fundraiser that 4 teens put on for us. We're happy to report they raised over \$1,200 for TOGETHER! that day. Thank you, Jesse, Jake, Zach and Connor!



Jesse, Jake and Zach were 3 of the high school seniors whose car wash raised \$1,200 for TOGETHER!.

- **We released our 2010-11 annual report** last week. It's been redesigned this year and not only looks better, it incorporates a lot of new stuff, like donor names and lots of stories and pictures. [Check it out!](#)



You're Doing Great at Medicine Disposal!

Drop Boxes in Almost Every Thurston City

In 2010, Thurston County officials and TOGETHER!, collaborating through the Prescription Drug Task Force, worked to get 5 secure prescription drug drop boxes open in the county.



It's now been more than a year since the first drop box was installed, and between the 5 locations, **in 2010, 2,159 pounds** were collected. So far **in 2011, as of July the 5 boxes collected 2,073 pounds**, with 5 months left to count! We'll easily beat 2010's numbers!

Here's a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who uses these boxes, and we encourage you to start using them if you haven't already. Please tell your family, neighbors and co-workers about using these boxes too!

This drop box at the courthouse is one of many you can use.

These drop spots ensure everyone has access to a safe place to dispose of unwanted or unused medicines so they don't fall into the hands of youth, and don't have to be flushed or thrown away, which harms the environment. Once put into the boxes, the medicines are then collected by law enforcement and disposed of in a way that keeps our kids and our fish safe.

Boxes in Thurston County are at:

- Thurston County Courthouse
- Tumwater Police Department (indoors)
- Lacey City Hall
- Tenino City Hall (indoors)
- Yelm City Hall

Group Health Cooperative in Olympia also has its own drop box, but it does not accept narcotics or controlled substances. All of the Task Force boxes listed above do accept these items.

Barbecue Was Great Fun

On Sept. 14, we had a free community barbecue at our Community Center at Evergreen Villages. It went great! It was fun and heartwarming, and it achieved both of its goals: relationship-building and community visibility. It really showed how powerful the Evergreen Villages community is.

Everyone got dinner and cake, the kids played outdoor games, and courtesy of the Friends of the Olympia Library, they all got free books and there was a great magic show that both kids and adults loved. Then several parents and youth spoke about what the Center means to them and how important it is. Former state Rep. Brendan Williams also talked about the importance of programs like this one.

It was nothing but smiles and laughs all evening long. Thanks to everyone who came, and don't forget to [check out our Facebook album](#) for a ton of great pictures!



Former state Rep. Brendan Williams lived at Evergreen Villages as a kid.



Magician Jeff Evans involves the audience in one of his tricks.



TOGETHER! engages and mobilizes families, schools and the community to advance the health, safety and success of our youth. 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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