



Spring 2013 Newsletter

Activities

Launch of the Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Initiative!

The Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Initiative is in full swing with its new website, logo, and push toward furthering the collaborative efforts of so many of our community youth violence prevention efforts.

Please check out our new website at: www.FallRiverYouthViolencePrevention.org!

Presentation Given on Behalf of Fall River Youth Violence Prevention to the Public Safety Committee

On April 24, 2013, a presentation was given to the Fall River City Council's Public Safety Committee to inform its members about an update on Shannon and SSYI funding, along with the overall new goals of the Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Initiative. Committee members were very supportive of these efforts and optimistic about the future of these approaches.

Youth Violence Prevention Task Force Presents at Durfee High School

On May 30th, Students at BMC Durfee High School heard presentations from the members of the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force under the leadership of the United Neighbors of Fall River. The group met over the course of the school year, focusing on discussions of bullying and how these violence relationships transcend to a global level.



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School Community Partnership and Youth CHOICES Collaborative Meeting

The Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Initiative has played a huge role in the launch of the School Community Partnership this 2012-2013 school year. This has been an effort to connect various agency offerings to the youth of our schools, providing safe, healthy activities and expanded learning. It has been a tremendous source of networking for various organizations and school representatives to work together to better support and serve our children in this city.

On June 5, 2013, two strong forces combined for the first time today in a meeting of the School Community Partnership and the Youth CHOICES Collaborative. Participants described the successes, challenges, and gaps that exist in the system of services for our youth in this community. Participants from over a dozen agencies, along with school representatives, and law enforcement representatives highlighted the value of working together moving forward. The two groups look forward to continuing this collaboration in order to identify available services, work toward addressing gaps in our community, contributing to the Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Master Plan, and creating stronger relationships to ultimately service the health, safety, education, and overall development of our youth.



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Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Information Session

The Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Information Session was held on June 5, 2013 at the Boys and Girls Club of Fall River. It was geared toward local officials, community leaders, and other stakeholders in our city. It presented the opportunity to discuss the importance and impact that the funding has had in our agencies and in our community. The new Fall River Youth Violence Prevention initiative was announced, along with the launch of our mission statement, model, and website, along with announcing the current development of the Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Master Plan. It was a great turnout, and we look forward to looking toward ways to sustain and expand the amazing work being done in Fall River toward youth violence prevention.



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Psychological First Aid Community Training

On May 28th and 29th, [Riverside Trauma Center](#) provided Psychological First Aid and Post Traumatic Stress Management training to a newly formed 60-member, second responder team in the event of a traumatic occurrence in our community. It was an amazing training with outstanding, experienced leaders, and we are grateful that Fall River was given this opportunity to be proactive in our response to this type of event.



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The Yellow Dress

On June 4, 2013, The Yellow Dress production was brought to BMC Durfee High School through the generosity of Citizens for Citizens' Family Planning. Sophomore students viewed this performance dedicated to healthy relationships. The Yellow Dress is a dramatic one-woman play based on the stories of young women who were victims of dating violence. The carefully constructed program stimulates thought-provoking discussion about relationships; a topic important to every young person's life. Audiences are clearly moved by the story of a young woman who warmly tells us of her relationship that begins as young love, full of passion and promise — and ends in tragedy.



Please remember to email Michaela Gagne Hetzler with any information for the Fall River Youth Violence Prevention website at: michaelajgagne@gmail.com. Thank you!

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