



Spring 2016 Newsletter

April - June

Fall River Suicide Prevention Community Conversation

Victims of suicide and attempted suicide spoke out at a forum organized by the Suicide Prevention Task Force of United Neighbors of Fall River and Partners for a Healthier Community on April 4, 2016 at Blessed Trinity Church. Forty people attended to hear stories of despair and courage that involved either persons who attempted suicide or persons who experienced the suicide of a loved one. The session began with a panel moderated by Herald News Editorial Page Editor Aaron Freschette and then opened the floor to input by others affected by suicide. Before concluding the forum, United Neighbors of Fall River Executive Director Wendy Garf-Lipp spoke about the work of the Task Force and called on School Community Partnership organizers Annemarie Holly and Diman Regional High School Adjustment Counselor Michaela Gagne-Hetzler to describe their work with students in the Fall River schools. Formed to respond to the rising incidence of suicides in Bristol County and to promote prevention, education and support services, the group meets monthly at the HealthFirst Family Care Center.



Police Youth Dialogue During National Youth Violence Prevention Week

On April 8th during National Youth Violence Prevention Week, FRYVP hosted a Police Youth Dialogue at BMC Durfee High School with Durfee and Diman Regional High School students. SRO's, Police Officers, Chief Racine, Mayor Correia, Representative Carole Fiola, and various high school officials participated in a tremendous youth-adult dialogue to gain a better understanding of our young people's needs. We explored stereotypes and assumptions, pride, and how we feel our city can grow to its potential. It was an amazing event!



Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

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Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Information Presentation

On April 11th, FRYVP organized its annual information presentation to provide updates on the task force to community members and stakeholders. We were able to share the tremendous progress of this group, explain the relevant grants and organizations, and share upcoming growth. Many came out to be part of the event, and it was amazing to see the community support!



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2016 Heroes of Peace Award

One April 11th, the Heroes of Peace Award ceremony was held following the FRYVP Information Presentation. This year's recipients are:

- Mimi Larrivee
- Bryan Besse
- Annemarie Holly
- Amy Blanchette
- District Attorney Tom Quinn
- J&J Organization
- Youth Leadership – Youth-Candidates Forum

Congratulations to all on making the Fall River community a more peaceful world!



FRYVP Youth Leaders Interviewed about Changes to Come

The Herald News interviewed FRYVP youth leaders to discuss changes that have been made six months after the Youth and Candidate Forum, as well as the voice the youth in our city still need to create positive change.



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Peace by Peace Summit Adult Session

Sponsored by the Bristol County District Attorney's Office, the Fall River Shannon Community Safety Initiative, Saint Anne's Hospital, Southcoast Hospitals, United Neighbors and Partners, this year's event on May 26th offered an opportunity to learn from Phil Boyte of Learning for Living. Phil established Learning for Living in 1984 from his vision for building communities of care on campuses around the country. He brought his unique approach to building and strengthening relationship skills to about thirty human service professionals who work with youth in Greater Fall River. This 45-minute session got participants engaged in getting to know one another in ways they never had before, demonstrating how a caring culture can be created in schools and youth programs.



2016 Peace by Peace Summit

Sponsored by the Bristol County District Attorney's Office, the Fall River Shannon Community Safety Initiative, Saint Anne's Hospital, Southcoast Hospitals, United Neighbors and Partners, this year's Peace By Piece event offered an opportunity to bring Phil Boyte of Learning for Living to conduct a session of Breaking Down the Walls, a program designed to unify, empower and engage students in creating a positive climate at school. Phil's techniques help to reveal truths that stimulate self-reflection and community-building among students. Participants find that they do not live in isolation, rather, within a community that depends on each of its members to thrive.. Phil established Learning for Living in 1984 from his vision for building communities of care on campuses around the country. He brought his unique approach to building and strengthening relationship skills on May 27, 2016 to over twenty-five human service professionals and volunteers and over 140 students recruited from Fall River Public Schools, Diman Regional High School, the Youth Outreach Program, YouthBuild, and more!



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Fall River Named All-America City Award Recipient

The National Civic League announced the ten winners of the 2016 All-America City Award, an honor given each year to towns, cities, counties, tribes, neighborhoods and metropolitan regions who demonstrate outstanding civic accomplishments. The Award recognizes the use of collaborative problem-solving strategies that link private, public and nonprofit sectors. This year, the program highlighted community efforts to ensure that all children are healthy and successful in school and life. Fall River was one of ten cities who received the award based on its efforts at positive youth development, improved school attendance, and the formation of a City-wide Parent Academy. Mayor Jasiel Correia II announced the award on June 28, 2016 at a Government Center news event. Youth Services Coordinator Christian McCloskey, 24-year-old pharmacist Dr. Lillian Phuong, Fall River School teacher Jason Springer, YouthBuild staff member and Family Service Association Therapeutic Mentor Christian Berrios, and Partners School Wellness Coordinator Marcia Picard represented the City at the Denver, CO competition on June 19th.



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2016 Youth of the Year

Congratulations to Latoya Pinnick (B.M.C. Durfee High School), the 2015 Fall River Youth of the Year, and the other Youth of the Year Finalists:

- Cheyenna Forsee (B.M.C. Durfee High School)
- Karissa Barros (Diman Regional High School)
- Meredith Forcier (B.M.C. Durfee High School)
- Nicole Emsley (B.M.C. Durfee High School)
- Sabrina M. Costa (Diman Regional High School)
- Nicholas Viveiros (Bishop Stang High School)



Please remember to email FRYouthViolencePrevention@gmail.com with any information for the Fall River Youth Violence Prevention website, newsletter, and Facebook page. Thank you!

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