

TEN NEWS

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T A R G E T E D C A P A C I T Y E X P A N S I O N

17TH ANNUAL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

Give Children A Chance—End Underage Drinking

Alcohol Awareness Month, sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) since 1987, encourages local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues. Alcohol Awareness Month began as a way of reaching the American public with information about the disease of alcoholism—that it is a treatable disease, not a moral weakness, and that alcoholics are capable of recovery.

As a national public awareness campaign, Alcohol Awareness Month has featured honorary chairpersons such as Senator George McGovern; Dr. David Satcher, the former Surgeon General; Barry McCaffrey, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; and New York Yankees baseball star Derek Jeter. A primary focus of Alcohol Awareness Month over the years has been underage drinking and the devastating effects it can have on our youth.

An integral part of Alcohol Awareness Month has been Alcohol-Free Weekend, which takes place on the first weekend in April (April 4-6, 2003). Alcohol-Free Weekend is designed to raise public awareness about the use of alcohol and how it may be affecting individuals, families, and businesses. During Alcohol-Free Weekend, NCADD extends an open invitation to all Americans to engage in three alcohol-free days. Those who experience difficulty or discomfort in this 72-hour experiment are urged to contact local NCADD affiliates, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Al-Anon to learn more about alcoholism and its early symptoms. Essentially, it is a community consciousness-raising

effort about alcoholism and health-related issues and may serve as a trigger to recovery.

For more information on how to obtain an Alcohol Awareness Month kit, its use, instructions, downloads, and other resources, visit the NCADD Web site at <http://www.ncadd.org>.

WHAT MAKES ANTI-DRUG PROGRAMS WORK: STRATEGIES SUPPORTED BY THE WHITE HOUSE AND LAWMAKERS

The perception that nothing works in preventing drug and alcohol-related problems was debunked on February 11, 2003, by the nation's leading experts, revealing that local multiple-sector strategies that consolidate local community anti-drug coalitions are making substantial contributions to our nation's anti-drug strategy. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) highlighted some of these outstanding local efforts.

On February 11, at the National Press Club, David L. Rosenbloom, director of Join Together, a Boston University-based organization supporting community-based efforts to reduce, prevent, and treat substance abuse, presented research findings about characteristics of successful community anti-drug coalitions. The common characteristics are: stable leadership, strong governance, a focused strategy, local data publicly reported, real political boundaries, and diversified funding.

Representatives from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Director John P. Walters, and Deputy Director Mary Ann Solberg, lauded community anti-drug coalitions for their comprehensive

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