



## YOUTH TAKE CHARGE OF UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION

***Capital City Youth Coalition for Alcohol Education and the Franklin County Agency for Substance Abuse Policy recognize local law enforcement and youth***

Frankfort, KY. (May 19, 2014) – The Capital City Youth Coalition for Alcohol Education (YCAE) students and Franklin County Agency for Substance Abuse Police (ASAP) Board will recognize the Frankfort Police Department and local youth members at this evening's (May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 5:00 p.m.) Frankfort Board of Commissioners' Special Meeting (315 West Second Street, Frankfort, Kentucky).

The youth will present the Frankfort Police Department with an Outstanding Service Award Plaque in appreciation of exceptional leadership, innovation and dedication in support of the Capital City Youth Coalition for Alcohol Education and Franklin County Agency for Substance Abuse Policy. This plaque recognizes the entire department for their commitment to the Capital City YCAE's mission to reduce underage drinking.

In addition to the presentation to the Frankfort Police Department, Officer Herb Wilson and Officer Mike Wells will receive special recognition for their participation in the Capital City YCAE Sticker Shock campaign and dedication to the enforcement of underage drinking laws. Youth will present the officers with a Certificate of Appreciation and an engraved Underage Drinking Prevention Law Enforcement Hero Medal. A special presentation by the youth coalition is also planned to recognize Captain Walter Martin with an engraved Underage Drinking Prevention Law Enforcement Hero Medal for his support and dedication to the youth coalition and its mission to promote a healthy and drug free Franklin County.

The seven youth members of the Capital City YCAE representing Western Hills High School and Franklin County High School who participated in the sticker shock campaign: Destini Ledford; Charisma Haynes; Japira Dorsey; Jalissa Clay; Kristein Pilcher; Kayla Gibson; Caroline Coles, will also be recognized with Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding leadership and support of the Capital City Youth Coalition for Alcohol Education, and dedication to the prevention of underage drinking. Senior student Charisma Haynes will receive special recognition for her leadership as YCAE Chair/ President this school year, and be presented an engraved Underage Drinking Prevention Outstanding Leadership Medal.

The YCAE also made a similar presentation at the Franklin County Fiscal Court Meeting on May 8, 2014.

Youth coalition teens are taught to look at the whole environment that often condones and contributes to underage drinking, and then look for community-based solutions to change people's behavior. The YCAE's goal is to reduce social and retail availability of alcohol to minors and to support the enforcement of underage drinking laws. By participating in YCAE, youth gain a better understanding of how alcohol affects their brain. They generate awareness of what they learn within the community by participating in projects designed to reduce underage drinking, then go back to school and spread the word about the dangers of alcohol consumption by minors to their friends. Youth are very powerful advocates, especially to their peers.

Alcohol is a factor in the deaths of approximately 4,700 youth in the United States per year (CDC 2011) and is the no. 1 youth drug problem in Kentucky (KIP 2012, NIAAA 2012); but with dedicated and collaborative action youth, parents, enforcement and community members we can keep alcohol away from youth.

## 10 FACTS ABOUT UNDERAGE DRINKING

1. **Alcohol is the No. 1 Youth Drug Problem in Kentucky** (KIP 2012, NIAAA 2012)
2. The World Health Organization indicates alcohol is the **world's third largest risk factor for disease burden**.
3. DEATH: On average, **alcohol is a factor in the deaths of approximately 4,700 youth** in the United States per year (CDC 2011).
4. **BRAIN DEVELOPMENT:** Alcohol damages the developing brain, heart and liver (2013 NIH)
5. **DEPENDENCE:** The younger teens drink the more likely they are to become alcohol dependent and drinking drivers (2013 NIH).
6. **MEMORY LOSS:** 1 in 5 KY 12th-graders have reported blacking out from drinking or drug use (2012 KIP)
7. Alcohol is implicated in homicide, suicide, unintended pregnancies, crime, violence, educational failure, and other problem behaviors; all of which are magnified by early onset of teen drinking (PIRE 2011).
8. According to the SAMHSA Drug Abuse Warning Network in 2011, on average, **EVERY THREE MINUTES someone under the legal drinking age in the U.S. has to go to the ER because they drank underage**.
9. Most underage drinkers reported drinking in a private residence verses in a restaurant, bar, park, or vehicle (SAMHSA, CBHYSQ, NSDUH, Special Data Analysis, 2012).
10. **40% of those who reported having started drinking before age-15 reported alcohol dependence** at some point in their lives, a percentage that was 4x higher than that reported by those who started drinking at age-21 (Grant and Dawson 1997).

For more information visit [www.kyprevention.com](http://www.kyprevention.com).



**Parents: You are the Greatest Influence in your Children's Lives**

***Underage Drinking can cause permanent damage to the developing brain, and lead to injury or even death.***

**Keep Alcohol Away from Youth. It's the Law, and Your Responsibility.**

**Funded by Franklin County ASAP and Capital City Youth Coalition for Alcohol Education**

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