

MATFORCE Spotlight

October 2022

Director's Corner

Welcome to the first edition of the **MATFORCE Spotlight**! MATFORCE is a coalition of diverse individuals and organizations who work together to prevent and reduce substance use. As a nonprofit, 501c(3) organization, our Board of Directors consist of 9 members and in each Spotlight issue you will hear from a member of the board in our **Director's Corner** section.



Volunteers are the backbone of MATFORCE. So, each issue will shine a light on a **Prevention Champion**. You will also find **Upcoming Events**, as well as a success story in our **Community Impact** section.

To learn more about MATFORCE, please visit the websites listed in the bottom section of the **Spotlight**.

It is an honor to be the Executive Director of this organization. I am so grateful for the amazing individuals and organizations who work together to reach our mission.

Sincerely,

Merilee Fowler, Executive Director

Upcoming Events

Red Ribbon Week
October 24th-28th

Join MATFORCE in celebrating National Substance abuse Prevention Month and Red Ribbon Week!

[Click For Details](#)

Dump the Drugs
October 29th, 10:00am-2:00pm

Dispose of expired or unwanted prescription medications.

[Click For Details](#)

Common Sense Parenting Course
10/25, 11/01, 11/08, 11/15, 11/29, & 12/6

6-week parenting education course using your head as well as your heart to raise school-aged children.

[Click For Details](#)

Prevention Champion | Lori Hunt, Vice Mayor, Town of Prescott Valley



I have the privilege of serving as a MATFORCE volunteer. It is probably the most rewarding volunteer position I have ever had. It all started when Nicky Indicavitch, an advocate for kids and mom of four in our local HUSD, met with Mayor Kell Palguta and me. She said that her middle and high school kids were going to their friend's funerals.

In 2020 our County lost five teens to illegal fentanyl poisoning. Of which in Prescott Valley two were 14-year-olds and one 17-year-old. In February 2021 our Prescott Valley Illegal Fentanyl Working Group was born. We currently meet every other month on the second Wednesday. Please mark your calendar for our next meeting on November 9th at 4pm in the Prescott Valley Library auditorium (7401 Skoog Blvd). This meeting is going to focus on how illegal drugs impact families. Being a volunteer at a coalition is not something I was trained in or could have ever imagined being a part of. I am a retired City Manager and Community/Economic Development Director and didn't have any sort of drug addiction in my family. But let me tell you, the benefit of being pulled out of my comfort zone to do a little for our community and kids is heartwarming. The 2021 Overdose Fatality Review Board Annual Report indicated an 11 percent decrease, first time in five years, in overdose deaths in Yavapai County! Coconino County is the only other county in AZ that showed any decrease. And the same report shows an 80 percent reduction (from 5 in 2020 to 1 in 2021) in teen overdose deaths related to fentanyl. It takes a village to get this sort of success and to educate our community on the dangers of illegal drugs. The good news...We are Saving Lives!"

Please consider being part of our team – go to matforce.org to volunteer or call me at (951) 837-0020.

Community Impact

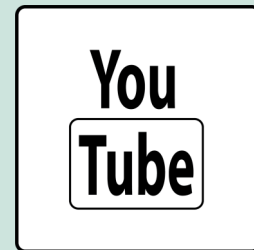
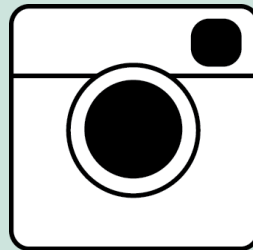
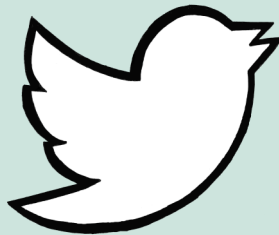


Before I was arrested, I was homeless for 3 years, addicted to drugs, and really had no motivation to try in my life. With getting out of jail at Camp Verde, I had no idea what I was going to do. But, when I was in jail I got connected with the Reentry Program and within 24 hours time after being released I was in an Oxford House.

Connecting with the right people through the Reentry Program, I got a start with the help I desperately needed. Through the support of the program, I was motivated to make my life better. With the connections I've made and the continued support from the Reentry Program coaching I'm 4 months sober. I have found myself living instead of just watching my life slip by. ~ Michael

For information on the Yavapai Reentry Project please contact Clarissa Nelson, Program Coordinator, at (928) 708-0100 or visit YavapaiReentryProject.org.

Let's Be Social



MATFORCE is a community organization that educates and raises awareness about substance abuse issues, and advocates for policy change throughout Yavapai County. With over 300 active volunteers, MATFORCE encompasses the belief that stopping drug use before it starts through primary prevention strategies is an essential part of building healthier communities.

Programs of MATFORCE include drug prevention education in the schools, the Yavapai Reentry Project, Trauma Lens Care, public awareness and education campaigns, and advocating for policy change at the state and local level. For more information about MATFORCE visit our family of websites:

matforce.org | MarijuanaHarmlessThinkAgain.org | TraumaLensCare.org | OpioidOD.com
SACLaz.org | TalkNowAZ.com | NaloxoneAZ.com | TheNewMeth.com | LearnMoreAZ.org
AZDrugSummit.org | YavapaiReentryProject.org | CommunityReentryProjectsAZ.org

