

DIRECTIONS

COMPASS UNITY'S SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

ABOUT US

COMPASS Unity is Bellport/South Country School District's drug and alcohol prevention coalition since 2009. COMPASS Unity's mission is to help keep the youth of the South Country schools and community safe and drug and alcohol free.

COMPASS Unity has representation from 12 sectors including; youth, parents, business, media, schools, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement agencies, religious or fraternal organizations, civic and volunteer groups, healthcare professionals, state, local and tribal agencies with expertise in the field of substance abuse, and other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse.

COMPASS UNITY'S 2017/18 OVERVIEW

It has been a productive year for COMPASS Unity, in which the Coalition continues to make progress within the South Country School District and community. With continued support by Family Service League's Underage Drinking Prevention initiative, funded by Suffolk Care Collaborative, the Coalition has been responsible for multiple events and activities that have taken place within the Bellport/South Country School District and community since the start of the new year, including:

Administering the Youth Development Survey to grades 7-12th in Bellport Middle School & Bellport High School;

Introducing the Alcohol Sellers Initiative (ASI) Program, a partnership between the Coalition and local alcohol retailers, that aims to reduce the sale and promotion of alcohol to youth within the community;

Hosting community mapping activities and data review sessions, a process that evaluates the risk and protective factors that exist within the community, based on feedback from community members;

Sponsoring a vape and e-cigarette awareness workshop at South Country Central School District's Family Engagement Center, with Suffolk County's Senior Drug Educator, Stephanie Sloan, as the presenter;

Providing Red Watch Band training during Red Ribbon Week to all senior students of Bellport High School;

Training Bellport High School students on a module of "Why Try", an evidence-based curricula, then having those students conduct a workshop for participants of the Youth Summit;

Becoming trained in Teen Intervene, then advocated for the program to be implemented into South Country School District's disciplinary code for out of school drug-related suspensions;

Sponsorship of Bellport Middle School and High School students to attend the Long Island Teen Institute weekends;

Providing cultural competency & health literacy training for staff of Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area and Partners in Prevention, a Task Group of the Suffolk County Division of Community Mental Hygiene Advisory Board's Alcohol and Substance Abuse Subcommittee;

Hosting COMPASS Unity's annual Youth Summit at Bellport Middle School, an all-day summit that consists of a keynote speaker and workshops geared towards teaching 7th and 8th graders about making healthy decisions;

Submitting the application, then later awarded the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program, a federal grant that provides funding to community-based coalitions whose goal is to prevent youth substance use;

Graduating from The National Coalition Academy (NCA), a year-long comprehensive training program developed by Communities Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), which teaches coalition leaders and members what they need to know and do to establish and maintain a highly effective anti-drug coalition.

DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES SUPPORT PROGRAM



COMPASS Unity is a new recipient of the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program, a program that's the nation's leading effort to mobilize communities to prevent substance use among youth aged 12-17. The DFC Support Program provides grants to community coalitions to strengthen the infrastructure among local partners, in order to create and sustain a reduction in local youth substance use.

The DFC Support Program is directed by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and was created by the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997. Since the program's inception, use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and prescription drug misuse in the past 30 days has declined significantly among middle school and high school aged youth in DFC-funded community coalitions.

The DFC program is valid for new grantees for five years, with an opportunity for renewal for an additional five years. COMPASS Unity is one of 731 nationwide Drug-Free Communities Program awardees for fiscal year 2018.

COMPASS Unity hosted a *Sticker Shock* campaign for the second year in a row, in order to deliver a message to South Country residents about keeping youth safe and alcohol-free during prom season. *Sticker Shock* is an environmental strategy that raises awareness about underage drinking, through the use of stickers that display positive messaging.

According to SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), adults who had their first drink before age 15 were 7 times more likely to experience alcohol problems than those who had not started drinking before the age of 21. With statistics like these, COMPASS Unity feels its necessary to host a *sticker shock* campaign annually.

COMPASS Unity is pleased to have partnered with the following local businesses for its 2018 *Sticker Shock* campaign:

Dave's Bellport Cold Beer & Soda
417 Station Road, Bellport, NY 11713

Gaby's Deli & Grocery Corp.
1769 Montauk Hwy., Bellport, NY 11713

Bellport Super Deli Inc.
461 Station Road, Bellport, NY 11713

1721 Grocery Inc.
1721 Montauk Hwy., Bellport, NY 11713

Istvan Gas Station Inc.
11 Station Road, Bellport, NY 11713

STICKER SHOCKED



Sticker Shock Stickers on beer kegs at Dave's Bellport Cold Beer & Soda, located at 417 Station Road, Bellport

COMPASS UNITY SEEKS YOUTH LEADERS

COMPASS Unity seeks youth leaders to join COMPASS Youth Coalition (CYC), the youth sector of COMPASS Unity. Youth coalition members serve as role models and represent the mission of COMPASS Unity coalition. CYC members play a key role in the larger coalition, as local youth provide a unique voice in prevention efforts that are geared towards influencing youth behaviors. Youth participants will help prevent alcohol and other drug use among youth and create positive change in the community by planning and engaging in prevention-based events and activities.

CYC is youth-led, meaning members help decide which activities best fit into COMPASS Unity's strategic action plan. Activities are school and community-based environmental strategies that aim to change conditions that contribute to underage drinking and illicit drug use. Activities include; *Operation Pizza Box*, community mapping, *Sticker Shock*, prescription drug take back events, environmental scans, media campaigns, and public service announcements.

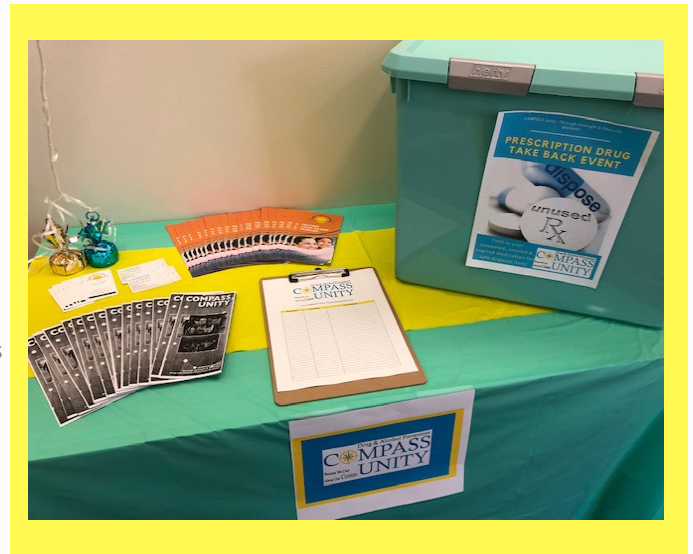
COMPASS Youth Coalition membership requires that youth participants attend a minimum of two coalition meetings and two activities per school year to maintain their membership. Meetings are held once a month at Bellport Middle School or Bellport High School. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed, when activities are in progress.

MEDICATION TAKE BACK EVENTS

COMPASS Unity is making it easier for residents of South Country to dispose of their unwanted, unused and expired medication by hosting prescription drug take back events. Medication take-back events are held in support of DEA's National *Prescription Drug Take Back Day* (held annually in April and October) and Suffolk County's Operation Medicine Cabinet initiative.

The objective of hosting prescription drug take back events is to decrease cases of accidental ingestion of unknown or expired prescription drugs and to close the gateway to heroin abuse, by reducing the availability of prescription drugs such as OxyContin, Percocet and Vicodin. These events help safeguard the environment by protecting drinking water and surface waters from contamination threats posed by improper disposal of items from medicine cabinets.

COMPASS Unity hosted its last medication take back event on October 27th, 2018 at South Country Public Library, with support from Suffolk County Police Department, 5th Precinct.



JOIN OUR EFFORTS!

COMPASS Unity welcomes you to join the coalition. Monthly meetings are held every second Tuesday of each month. Morning meetings are held at 10AM-11:30AM at South Country Central School District's Administration building, located at 189 North Dunton Avenue, East Patchogue. Evening meetings are held every third month at 6:30PM-8:00PM, at South Country Public Library, located at 22 Station Road, Bellport. Substance abuse prevention training is held during meetings by The Long Island Prevention Resource Center (LIPRC), the Prevention Specialist or other professionals that are knowledgeable in substance abuse prevention. For more information, please contact us at COMPASSUNITY@SOUTHCOUNTRY.ORG

