



For Immediate Release

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Norristown Area CTC Receives \$125,000 Drug Free Communities Grant

NORRISTOWN, PA, October 1, 2009 — Norristown Area Communities That Care for Youth (CTC) was awarded a \$125,000 Drug Free Communities Support Program grant by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently.

The Drug Free Communities program provides matching grants over a five-year period to community coalitions that facilitate citizen participation in local drug prevention efforts. The Drug Free Communities program enables these coalitions to strengthen their coordination and prevention efforts, encourage citizen participation in substance abuse reduction efforts, and disseminate information about effective programs.

“Norristown Area CTC has been working to reduce youth substance abuse and violence in our community since 2001,” said Angela Bell, community mobilizer, Norristown Area CTC. “We do this through a variety of partnerships and strategies including drug prevention education of parents and youth, as well as special projects with the local police departments and schools.”

Norristown Area CTC will use the Drug Free Communities funding to further its goal of reducing substance abuse among youth living in the Norristown Area School District and, over time, among adults by addressing the issues in the community that increase the risk of substance abuse and promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse.

According to Bell, Norristown Area CTC has implemented several key strategies in order to achieve these goals. Through the coalition, street corner/open-air drug sales in Norristown and West Norriton Township will be targeted through aggressive police patrols. Norristown Area CTC will also provide free Responsible Alcohol Management Program (RAMP) trainings for area establishments holding alcohol licenses.

In addition, the community coalition will also design and implement anti-drug social marketing campaigns, as well as develop strategies to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors in East and West Norriton Townships and the Municipality of Norristown. Coalition members will also

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work with area law enforcement and government officials to review appropriate community regulations regarding alcohol and drug offenses.

“Norristown Area CTC complements these strategies with effective programming, such as *Life Skills Training*, a drug prevention program for youth, and *Guiding Good Choices* and *Staying Connected with Your Teen*, two parent education programs that help parents in guiding their children to make wise decisions,” said Bell.

Established in 2001, Norristown Area CTC brings together community residents and leaders to prevent substance abuse and violence in order to secure a more safe, caring and educated environment in which youth can live and grow to be productive members of our community.

Norristown Area CTC is governed by a collaborative community board of residents, social service agencies, law enforcement, school district officials, faith-based organizations, and youth, as well as other interested community members. Residents of East and West Norriton Townships and the Municipality of Norristown who want to make a difference in the lives area youth are welcome to join the CTC Prevention Board.

For more information on Norristown Area CTC, please contact Angela Bell, CTC community mobilizer, at 610-630-2111 ext. 236 or abell@fsmontco.org or visit www.NorristownCTC.org.

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