

EXPECTATIONS

1. Set age-appropriate guidelines for your children and always KNOW:
 - ◆ **Where** your children are;
 - ◆ **Whom** they are with;
 - ◆ **What** they are doing;
 - ◆ **When** they are expected to return home, and what the consequences will be if rules are broken.
2. Actively enforce a clear, consistent message to all youth that there will be NO USE of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.
3. Talk to the parents of your children's friends and agree upon rules for your children and consequences for a child who breaks the rules.
4. Provide support for all parents to develop safe, healthy, drug-free homes and communities.

NETWORK EMPOWERING TIPS

- ◆ Inform your children that you have joined SAFE HOMES and discuss that being drug-free is the *norm* in your home.
- ◆ Inform your children that you have clear, consistent expectations for their behavior and what the consequences will be for violating the rules.
- ◆ Assure your children they can phone you to be picked up wherever and whenever needed.
- ◆ Be awake (or awaken) when your children return home.
- ◆ Be accessible to your children and let them know where you will be.
- ◆ Get to know your children's friends and their parents.
- ◆ Always ask questions.

SAFE HOMES PLEDGE

Parents, guardians, and community working together for drug-free youth.

1. I will actively supervise all gatherings of youth in our home or on our property, or ask another responsible adult for help to do so.
2. I will not allow the possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by youth in our home or on our property.
3. I will set expectations for my children by knowing where they are, whom they are with, what they are doing, and when they are to return home.

This pledge is NOT a legally binding contract, but rather an agreement between the network of parents.

**For more information on
SAFE HOMES, Supporting Drug-Free Youth,
and what it means for Throggs Neck
go online to
www.safehomes.org.**

A copy of the SAFE HOMES Pledge Form is available by contacting Loretta MacKnight, TNCAP Community Planner at lmacknight@adapp.org



**EMPOWERING ADULTS
TO WORK TOGETHER FOR
DRUG-FREE YOUTH**



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You CAN make the DIFFERENCE

WHAT IS SAFE HOMES?

Mission Statement

Parents, guardians and community working together for drug-free youth.

Goal

To develop a community-wide coalition for parents and other adults working together to implement the SAFE HOMES Parent Network in their homes, schools and community.

The SAFE HOMES Parent Network is a pledge-based, drug prevention project for parents and guardians of youth in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grades.

It provides parents and guardians an opportunity to talk with each other and to unite in a clear message to all youth that there will be NO USE of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs in the community.

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Parents and guardians will supervise all gatherings of youth on their property.
- ◆ Families will not allow the possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by youth in their homes or on their property.
- ◆ Parents and guardians will know where their children are, will oversee their activities and will set appropriate expectations and consequences for their behavior.

BENEFITS

Benefits to you as a parent include:

- ◆ Information about your children's social scene and the opportunity to develop agreed-upon expectations and consequences for their behavior.
- ◆ Empowerment to challenge old attitudes of permissiveness and tolerance regarding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.
- ◆ Support and encouragement while developing drug-free homes and communities
- ◆ Reduction in negative pressure from children and other adults.
- ◆ A healthier and safer environment for children.

Benefits to our children include:

- ◆ A clear consistent NO-USE message to all youth regarding the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.
- ◆ Reinforcement of a clear set of expectations and consequences regarding their behavior.
- ◆ Discussion with parents regarding skills to help make good decisions.
- ◆ Eliminate some pressure to use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs to fit in with their peers.
- ◆ Positive adult role models.

Benefits to your community include:

- ◆ A change in the societal acceptance of youth using alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.
- ◆ A safer environment for all community members by providing clear expectations and guidelines.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There are two ways to activate the SAFE HOMES Parents Network

The **Community Network** is coordinated through a school, faith-based, or established community group.

1. **Who**—You will be contacted by a network leader.
2. **What**—You will be invited to an informational meeting to offer parents an opportunity to discuss concerns and sign the SAFE HOMES Pledge Form.
3. **How**—You will be able to stay in contact with other parents to share concerns and information and to assure that children's activities are supervised and safe.

If you would like to become a Community Network leader, contact TNCAP.

The **Parent Circle Network** is organized as a small home-based group.

1. **Who**—you will identify your child's best friends and invite their parents to your home for an informal gathering.
2. **What**—You will discuss concerns and together prepare a list of clear expectations and consequences for your children.
3. **How**—You will sign the SAFE HOMES Pledge Form and commit to regularly communicating with each other about all plans made by your children.

If you would like to form a Parent Circle Network, contact **Loretta MacKnight, TNCAP Community Planner**, at lmacknight@adapp.org (718) 904-1333 ext. 17 for a step-by-step Parent Circle Guide.

SAFE HOMES works best when you activate both networks!