



working together coalition

Annual Coalition Report July 2009-July 2010

Working Together:
A Coalition for Safe and
Healthy Communities

The Working Together Coalition is a group of concerned individuals working together to address issues relating to underage use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in the Cass County School Districts of Northland Community Schools, Pine River-Backus and Walker-Hackensack-Akeley.

Our Mission

Working Together to prevent substance use by our youth through community collaboration, resulting in an improved quality of life.



Our Vision

We envision a safe and healthy community free of the impact of substance abuse and its negative effects.

An Expanded Vision

We are excited and proud to share with you the "highlights" of our work over the past 12 months. In September of 2009 our vision expanded to the School Districts of Walker-Hackensack- Akeley and Northland Community Schools. The expansion did not come without its challenges; however as you will see in the pages of this report it has increased our capacity to work in each community tailoring activities, strategies and results. The results we are seeing which started with a vision in the Pine River-Backus School District will be modeled and refined in all

three School Districts . Our Coalition members represent our communities. They each come from a different walk of life and we are Working Together to provide a safe and healthy place for our youth! The coalition consists of people from these 12 sectors:

Youth, Parents, Media, Schools, Business Community, Law Enforcement, Youth Serving Organizations, Religious and Fraternal Organizations, Civic/Volunteer Groups, Health Care Professionals, State, Local and Tribal Government and, Other individuals and organizations that have the same vision.

We would like to thank Coalition members and volunteers who provide manpower, knowledge, skill and support to make our communities a healthy place for youth to thrive!

**You are part
of the
solution.**

Thank you!

Town Hall Meetings



Town Hall Meetings were conducted in Walker, Remer and Backus this year. Each community had a panel discussion on how to address underage drinking. Panelists represented law enforcement, youth, parents, counselors, social workers, Doctors,

attorney's office and business. Panelists were asked to explain why the issue of underage drinking important to them and what their role s in trying to prevent our youth from using alcohol. They also explained the legal consequences for youth they use alcohol and also for the adults (21 and over) that provide alcohol to a minor or provide a place for underage drinking to take place. Between the three communities, over 200 were in attendance. *The solution is in the community!*



TEENS LEADING THE WAY



Teens Leading The Way is a group of teens who choose to remain Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) free. They provide and get involved in ATOD free activities in the community. In addition, they have the option to attend leadership training such as the Youth Leadership Academy, Craig Hiller-Youth Leadership Speaker, and the Summer Leadership Retreat. The Pine River-Backus group sponsored two dances and a game night this year.

The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley group planned and implemented a workshop for all the 6th-8th graders to show them that they can have fun without the use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs. They planned the following stations: a positive rap off, jeopardy game, brainstorming ideas of things to do other than drinking in our community and also talked about the risks of using ATOD.

The Northland Community School District had a booth at the Northland Community School Pow Wow. The booth had information available about Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs. They also made a graffiti wall where other students helped find positive things to do in our community other than using! They also made a video that was shown at the Kick Off in May!



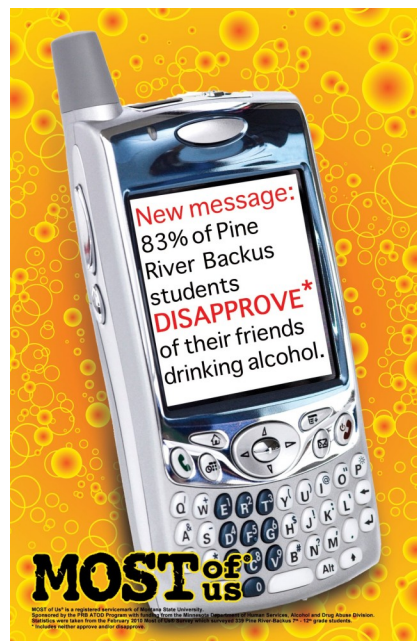
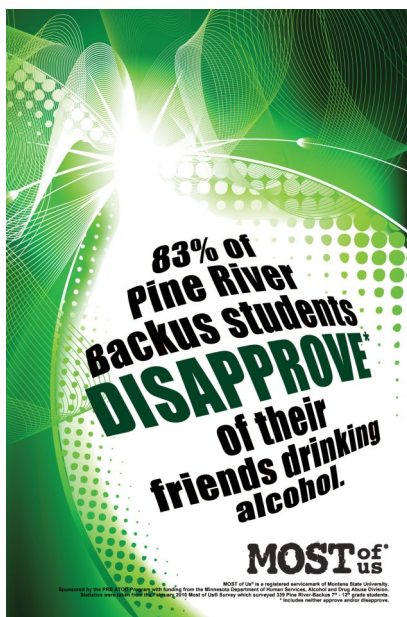
Pine River-Backus MOST OF US® Campaign

The Most of Us® Campaign is a positive community norms project that challenges people's commonly held perceptions about their environment and the behavior of their peers, as well as their beliefs about how problems like underage drinking should be confronted. In February 2010,

339 7-12th graders took the Most of Us® survey which asked questions regarding their personal use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) and their perception of what they think their peers are using as it relates to ATOD. What has been found is the MOST of the students at Pine River -Backus don't use ATOD on a regular basis, but they believe that their peers are using more frequent. This campaign focuses on educating the youth and community at large about actual substance use by youth versus perceived substance use by youth.

The MOST of Us® message has been included in the following:

Prom and Graduation letters to parents, prom prize ticket, posters, video in Bear Pause Theater and Sunset Cinema, billboards, and promotional items.



Most of Us® is a registered servicemark of Montana State University



Zero Adult Providers (ZAP)

Zero Adult Providers (ZAP) is a philosophy that our local law enforcement uses to approach underage drinking parties. This year they continue to treating underage drinking calls as a crime scene investigation rather than as a nuisance call. We have expanded these efforts into the WHA and Northland Community School Districts within the last year.

ZAP is a partnership between the Working Together Coalition and the following law enforcement agencies:

Cass County Sheriff's Office, Pine River PD, Backus PD, Walker PD, Longville PD and Leech Lake Department of Public Safety.

Other efforts done through the ZAP sub-committee include:

- Sent letter to parents of graduating sniors and included Safe Party Zone poster for grad parties.
- Started the Parents Who Host, Lose The Most Campaign.
- Coalition Member Chris Strandlie has proposed the Social Host Ordinance to Cass County Board of Commissioners.



Responsible Beverage Server Training

In the past year we have provided this training over 11 times over the past year and have trained 184 individuals from alcohol serving establishments!

This two-hour course reviews the following:

- The effects of alcohol consumption on adolescents
- Laws for those under 21, laws for those over 21, especially pertaining to alcohol beverage servers and alcohol related business owners
- Ways to determine if someone is intoxicated, and how to deal with that person
- Identifying fake IDs

Compliance Checks

Compliance checks were coordinated and conducted with the Cass County Sheriff's Department, Leech Lake Tribal Police, and the city police departments of Backus, Longville, Pine River and Walker.

Within the last year, we have conducted three rounds of alcohol compliance checks. On January 15th, 2010 we did our first round for the establishments within the

school districts of Walker-Hackensack-Akeley and Northland Community Schools and 11 of the 14 businesses checked passed. The second round was conducted on February 12th, 2010 for establishments within Pine River-Backus and 9 of the 12 businesses passed. Most recently on June 24th the third round was conducted in Pine River-Backus and **100%** of the business checked passed!

83% of businesses checked passed their alcohol compliance check!

School Curriculum

Research-based alcohol use prevention programs are being implemented in the Pine River-Backus, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley and Northland Community public school system for 4th grade and 6th-11th grade. Parents receive information through the mail regarding which curricula their child will be participating in. This information also includes how

parents can help educate their child on substance abuse and prevention. 398 Pine River-Backus students received the curriculum and over 300 students from the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley and Northland schools received the curriculum. Our hope is that this education will help delay and reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among our youth.



Pine River-Backus 4th grade students who completed Keep A Clear Mind



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PO Box 1
Pine River, MN 56474

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Fax: 218-584-4193

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leeann@workingtogethercoalition.org

WWW.WORKINGTOGETHERCOALITION.ORG

The Solution is in the Community



Kelly Felton



LeeAnn Sampson

Working Together Coalition Coordinators

Coalition Meetings

Join Us!

Pine River-Backus School District

Contact: LeeAnn Sampson-218-587-4292 or 218-839-3517

2nd Wednesday of each month

Backus City Hall-2pm

Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District

Contact: Kelly Felton 218-330-8129

2nd Thursday of each month

Walker Area Community Center 1:30 pm

Northland Community Center

Contact: Kelly Felton 218-330-8129

Call for meeting times and dates.

Check out our upcoming events at
www.workingtogethercoalition.org

Community Event Participation

Booth at 2009 Cass County Fair

Booth at Pine River-Backus Back To School Night

Booth at Walker-Hackensack-Akeley and Northland Community School Parent Teacher Conferences

Kinship Partners Fundraiser-IBEDIROD

Walker Women's Expo

2nd Annual Pine River Backus Health & Wellness Fair

Community Outreach

Thriving with your Teen-

Mike Coyne, Minnesota Institute of Public Health

People of Faith- Partners in Prevention

Roger Svendsen, M.S., C.P.P.R.

Teens Leading the Way Leadership Training

Craig Hillier, Winning Edge Seminars

The Working Together Coalition has funding from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division and the Drug Free Community Support Program.

Goals For The Upcoming Grant Year

- The MOST of Us® Campaign will continue in the Pine River-Backus School District.
- The Search Institute Attitudes and Beliefs Survey will be conducted in the 2010-2011 school year for all three school districts.
- Continue to collaborate with law enforcement in preventing youth access to alcohol.
- Teens Leading The Way groups will continue to work on environmental strategies in Pine River-Backus, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley and the Northland school district.
- Reach out to parents that are interested in starting a Parent Network.
- Increase coalition membership and inform our community members of our efforts.
- Continue to refine and assess our current strategies.
- Send coalition members to ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug) prevention trainings
- Continue to offer ATOD free activities.
- Offer information about our Coalition efforts to surrounding school districts that are interested.
- Continue to support implementation of the ATOD prevention curriculum in the schools.
- Seek opportunities for policy change.