

## **Guilford's Alcohol and Drug Education Coalition Hosts World Café Event to Spark Community Conversation About Youth Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

### **It's Worth It!**

Parents, grandparents and all community members are invited to take part in a community conversation about youth substance abuse. Please take this opportunity to help define our community's problem and to develop solutions for one of the most important issues facing our young people. Guilford's Developing Assets for Youth (D.A.Y.) will host Community Conversations: World Café, Tuesday, October 9 at the Community Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.

What is a World Café? It is an innovative way to get people talking about issues that matter in the community that's been compared to speed dating. Participants in a World Café will sit at tables and respond to questions posed by a moderator. In this case, the questions will concern teen substance use. Participants converse and have the option of jotting down additional thoughts on paper tablecloths. After 15 minutes, the groups will mix and begin again. This is the first such discussion hosted by D.A.Y.

The World Café is one of many events that will take place in the coming weeks sponsored by D.A.Y.

"Like most other communities, there have been a number of drug- and alcohol-related tragedies in Guilford over the past years," said Dana Pelliccio, spokesperson. "We are trying to start a conversation about what we can do to prevent these problems. Research shows that by talking about these issues as a community and addressing positive youth development together we can make a difference in stopping teen drug and alcohol use and abuse."

Guilford is one of a few communities in Connecticut that has been funded for an alcohol and drug coalition. National data shows that communities with coalitions such as these have a measureable decline in drug and alcohol use among teens who live there. D.A.Y.'s aim is to work with parents, school officials, business and town leaders, package store owners, the faith community, police and neighbors to increase developmental assets and prevent, thereby teen substance use.

Space is limited for the World Café. Please RSVP by October 2 through Guilford Youth and Family Services at (203) 453 8047

*Please join D.A.Y. for this important conversation. It's Worth It!*

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