

Development Assets for Youth – Hope Not Fear

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Development Assets for Youth (DAY) is a community coalition working to build a healthier environment for Guilford's youth. The coalition includes more than 40 individuals, including parents, youth, the schools, community leaders, churches, scouts, Guilford Youth & Family Services, Parks & Recreation, GCTV, and the Police Department. Ultimately, DAY works to save lives and prevent addiction by providing our youth with the opportunities, skills, and values they need to grow into healthy, caring, and responsible adults.

Our approach is to use a positive, proactive approach based on hope, not fear. Youth leadership and participation in the effort are crucial for success.

There are many possible initiatives, but the coalition set four initial priorities. By reinforcing the importance of family boundaries, fostering adult role models and mentoring, encouraging positive peer influence, and demonstrating that the community values its youth, Guilford DAY and its supporters will help our youth make positive choices, ultimately reducing drug and alcohol use.

In 2009, DAY surveyed Guilford youth in grades 7 to 12 to gather information on teen life in our community. In October 2011, DAY received a \$625,000 federal drug-free communities grant to be utilized for youth substance use prevention. We have sponsored a number of initiatives during the past year, including Guilford's Got Talent, the Halloween Window Painting Contest, a Community Forum, and Kickball Fun at Baldwin Middle School. We are working on joint projects with the youth sports leagues, Parks & Recreation, Guilford Free Library, the Police Department, and the Guilford Public Schools. We have an opportunity to create a unique and positive culture in Guilford, to help our youth avoid years of destructive behavior. There are many opportunities for us all, teens as well as adults, to learn more productive ways to help each other. We hope you will join with us. Guilford can be a community of hope and success for all our youth.

For more information or to get involved, contact Prevention Coordinator Dana Pelliccio at pellicciod@ci.guilford.ct.us