



## SANTA FE PREVENTION ALLIANCE

*Protecting Our Community, Building A Positive Future*

# FAITH COMMUNITIES CARE – COMING TOGETHER FOR OUR YOUTH

Faith Communities Care is an effort to actively engage local faith community leaders in our vision. This multi-faith initiative engages faith community leaders, religious educators and youth group leaders to support prevention, recovery and advocacy in Santa Fe.

Faith Communities Care has three objectives:

1. To increase efforts of faith communities in **prevention** of substance abuse.
2. To strengthen support for youth and adults to move towards and sustain **recovery**.
3. To engage leadership and involvement in **advocacy** to prevent youth substance use.

Faith Communities Care was founded in 2014. The Planning Team, comprised of faith leaders and Alliance members, arrange quarterly educational events and activities. A resource binder is under development, including a referral list for treatment and recovery services. The Prevention Alliance offers a unique consultation service for clergy seeking help with making appropriate referrals.

The Alliance also developed Guidelines for Hosting Family and Friends, a bilingual brochure to help people decide whether to serve alcohol at an event and provide guidelines for safer alcohol service. Guidelines are available for distribution by faith communities to their members. Future plans include bulletin notices and sharing other educational materials.

Research demonstrates that participation in faith communities is a protective factor for youth. In addition, faith communities can intentionally create youth engagement opportunities to learn about alcohol and other drugs and develop skills to prevent substance use. Faith leaders can also coach parents to improve communication with their children and offer or promote programs to strengthen parenting skills.

Faith community leaders have long been at the forefront of advocacy and activism for drug-free communities. With moral leadership, faith leaders can guide their members and communities towards a more just and healthy future. The Prevention Alliance looks forward to a rewarding relationship with our faith communities as we build a positive future for our community.

### **OUR PARTNERS:**

- Santa Maria de la Paz Catholic Church
- Seventh Day Adventist Church
- LifePoint Church
- Fruit of the Spirit Ministry
- Mesa Vista Wellness

### **RESULTS**

- Faith leaders from 15 faith communities participated in events in 2014.
- Guidelines for Hosting Family and Friends sent to many faith communities in Santa Fe for distribution to members.

**OUR VISION:** *Santa Fe County where no one drinks alcohol before the age of 21, where adults model low risk use, no one drives while impaired and no one abuses drugs.*