



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Shelley Mann-Lev, Director
(505) 470-9072 or Smann@sfps.info

LOCAL FAITH LEADERS STEP UP TO STOP SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN SANTA FE

SANTA FE: Leaders of Santa Fe faith communities have decided to do something about substance abuse in Santa Fe. Faith leaders from 9 diverse communities attended a gathering hosted by the Santa Fe Prevention Alliance at the Friendship Club on May 14. Representatives from the St. Francis Cathedral, Santa Maria de la Paz, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Grace Community Church, Life Point Church, Fruit of the Spirit Ministries, Temple Beth Shalom, San Isidro Parish, and the yoga community. The event was planned by faith community leaders; Leonard Cummings, Rebecca Baran-Rees, Eva Gonzales and Tommy Baca and Prevention Alliance Education leaders Jennifer Romero, Alicia Justus and Shelley Mann-Lev.

This week's gathering featured a presentation on the Strengthening Families Program, a prevention program for middle school youth and their parents offered at Ortiz Middle School. Program facilitators and participants described the program and its impact. Faith leaders were encouraged to refer families of middle school students to this free community program.

This is the fourth gathering of Faith Communities Care—Coming Together for our Youth since its launch last June. Faith Communities Care has three goals:

1. To increase substance abuse prevention efforts with youth and families
2. To help faith leaders support youth and adults with substance use challenges to move towards recovery
3. To engage faith communities in advocacy efforts to address substance abuse in our community.

All faith leaders are invited to participate. The next event will be Thursday, August 13th, 2015.

The Santa Fe Prevention Alliance is a coalition of 20+ local and state organizations whose shared vision is: *Santa Fe County, where no one under 21 drinks alcohol, adults model low risk use of alcohol, no one drives while impaired and no one abuses drugs.* The Prevention Alliance received national recognition as the 2015 recipient of the prestigious Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America Chairman's Award for their exemplary leadership in the field of substance abuse prevention.

For additional information about the Santa Fe Prevention Alliance, contact Shelley Mann-Lev, Director, at (505) 470-9072 or SantaFePreventionAlliance@gmail.com. Thank you for your support.

www.SantaFePreventionAlliance.com

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.*