

A message to parents: Don't Make the Big Mistake...

"Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking"

Parents have the best of intentions when hosting a graduation party in their child's honor, but hosting a party where alcohol is available for teens is a big mistake.

For the 3rd consecutive year, the Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition for Youth is participating in the "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" campaign. This year they have taken the campaign into local businesses including Hungry Howie's Pizza in Keego Harbor and Dolly's Pizza in Union Lake. Together they attached 3000 campaign messages to their pizza boxes.

Many individuals in the community have signed a proclamation supporting the campaign. This proclamation is currently on display at the main branch of the West Bloomfield Public Library

Committee chairperson, Marcy Rowe states, "it's gratifying that in our first year of publicizing this campaign locally that 15 area businesses displayed and distributed our materials. People underestimate the power of alcohol. Some parents mistakenly condone teen drinking, but there is no "safe" level of drinking for minors. Supplying alcohol to those under 21 is against the law."

Here are the facts:

- Parents who give alcohol to their teen's friends under any circumstances, even in their own homes, are breaking the law. You can face a minimum sentence of 3 months in jail and/or a \$500 fine.
- Parents who knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in their home or on their property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages can be prosecuted and everything associated with such a violation can be confiscated, including personal property.
- Parents can be sued if they give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they in turn hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property.

The "Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking" public awareness campaign is a program of The Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities (ACHC) and the Oakland County Health Division. *Adapted with permission from Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth.*

For more information about this campaign or the Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition for Youth check their website www.gwbcoalition.org

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