



**Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use
April 2010
Submitted by Joan Janusz & Susan Sanderson, Co-Chairs**

Highlights of April Activities:

- The Mayor's Task Force co-sponsored a Town Hall meeting on underage drinking on April 14 at St. Olaf College. More than 70 people attended the event, which focused on underage and binge drinking among college students. The Task Force commends the Dean of Students Offices at St. Olaf and Carleton Colleges for their leadership in convening this gathering and pursuing action steps resulting from the event. The Town Hall meeting is part of a national effort by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to educate youth, parents, and other adults about the harmful effects of underage drinking.
- Since September 22, 2010 (the first day of the "Take It to The Box" medication disposal project), more than 1,400 pounds of unneeded prescription and over-the-counter medication has been collected through the drop boxes in the Northfield and Faribault Police Stations. This stunning total has far-surpassed all of the initial expectations. A disposal box continues to be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week in the front lobby of the Northfield Police Station.
- Northfield hosted an educational session on the "Take It to The Box" program this month, explaining the model and offering suggestions on how other communities could potentially replicate it. Over 65 people from across the state (representing over 30 communities) attended the half-day session at the Northfield Community Resource Center. Many thanks to Mayor's Task Force member Mary Nelson, Northfield Police Chief Mark Taylor, and Lynn James (Northfield Police Department's Property and Evidence Technician) for their work in making this such a successful training.
- The Mayor's Task Force partnered with the Rice County Attorney's Office and the Rice County Safe Communities Coalition on an education piece about prom safety for parents of local juniors and seniors. The piece focused on the importance of making prom night an alcohol-free event, as well as the consequences of providing alcohol to minors.
- The Mayor's Task Force appreciated the opportunity to present to the City Council at its April 6 meeting and to provide the Council with an update on the group's work, as well as its revised 2010 budget (reflecting at 10% reduction).

For more information on the Mayor's Task Force, visit www.mayorstaskforcenorthfield.org