



**Summary of Current Efforts – Mayor’s Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use
August 2009
Submitted by Joan Janusz & Susan Sanderson, Co-Chairs**

The Mayor’s Task Force is partnering on an effort to bring John Underwood from the American Athletic Institute to Northfield on September 1. Mr. Underwood will conduct a series of presentations that day for Northfield High School staff, coaches, and athletes. He will also present to parents and community members at 7:00 p.m. in the Northfield High School Auditorium. Mr. Underwood will discuss the impact of drug and alcohol use on athletic performance and adolescent development. Other partners in this project include Northfield Public Schools, Northfield Police Department, Rice County Chemical Health Coalition, Northfield Hospital, Northfield Healthy Community Initiative, and Rice County Safe Communities Coalition.

The Mayor’s Task Force continues to be active in raising awareness of prescription drug abuse in Rice County. As the flagship portion of this project, a coalition of local partners is working to establish drop boxes in the Northfield and Faribault Police Stations for community members to safely and anonymously drop off unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines. The boxes will be open on September 22, 2009. Thereafter, community members can drop off medicine 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The Mayor’s Task Force continues to work on an aggressive community education campaign about medication abuse and the safe usage, storage, and disposal of medicines. Partners in this “Take It to The Box” effort include the Northfield Police Department, the Northfield Hospital, District One Hospital, the Faribault Police Department, the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition, Rice County Public Health, and the Rice County Sheriff’s Office.

At its August meeting, the Mayor’s Task Force was joined by two representatives from Rice County Community Corrections – Jim Haas (director) and Angela Brewer (juvenile probation officer). These guests shared information on the corrections system and ways that the Mayor’s Task Force and other community efforts can be supportive of their work.

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