



**Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use
December 2009
Submitted by Joan Janusz & Susan Sanderson, Co-Chairs**

Updates on December Activities:

- The Task Force is leading a parent education campaign for parents of middle and high school students. The campaign includes columns in the *Northfield News* and postcards with parenting tips and data on local youth substance use. The initial postcards were distributed this month.
- Northfield High School Activities Director Tom Graupmann visited with the Task Force at our December meeting, updating the group on the Pure Performance efforts at the Northfield High School. Activities have included a pledge taken by all athletes (and signed by their parents, coaches, and captains), ongoing trainings for captains of high school activities, and a partnership with service-learning students to raise awareness about the program at the high school. Pure Performance stresses the impact that alcohol and drug use has on athletic performance and adolescent development.
- The Task Force continues to support the “Take It to The Box” medication disposal program, which has been in operation for three months. Community members continue to bring their no longer needed prescription and over-the-counter medications to the disposal boxes in the Northfield and Faribault Police Stations. The boxes are open to the public 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
- The Task Force continues to partner with the Northfield Middle School on a Positive Community Norms campaign at the middle school throughout this school year. Neuger Communications Group is again donating their services to help lead this campaign, which was piloted last year at the Northfield High School. The campaign stresses the healthy decisions made by most Northfield students, including the decisions not to use alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs.
- The Task Force published another column in its monthly series for the *Northfield News*. The December piece focused on the holiday season and the importance of making safe and responsible choices when celebrating during this time of year.
- The Task Force will host its annual retreat on Saturday, January 16, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The group will review its 2009 activities and set goals for 2010.

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