



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

Highlights of December Activities for the Mayor's Task Force:

- The Mayor's Task Force is working with the Northfield Public Schools on a parent education effort around responsible technology use by teens. The need for this effort was originally highlighted to the Task Force as a result of local parents commenting about the posting of social media messages around underage drinking. The schools are also interested in including issues of cyberbullying, as this is a concerning topic locally as well as nationally. Look for increased parent education efforts in these areas in early 2011.
- The Task Force's monthly column in the *Northfield News* this month focused on making safe choices regarding the consumption of alcohol this holiday season. Kathy Cooper (Mayor's Task Force member) authored the article and also was interviewed on KYMN radio.
- At the Task Force's December meeting, a report was heard on the highly successful Pure Performance program at the Northfield High School. This is a national program stressing the negative impact that substance use can have on athletic and school performance. The Mayor's Task Force has supported this program locally now in its second year. Coaches are the focus of this year's program; the Northfield High School coaches are receiving training before each of their seasons on Pure Performance, as well as reminders throughout the season on how to reinforce the Pure Performance messages with their athletes.
- The Task Force's 2011 retreat is set for Monday, February 7, 2011, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. The location is to be determined. The retreat will offer the chance for the group to review its 2010 activities and set its initiatives for 2011. The group also hopes to discuss task force membership at this annual gathering. Any City Council or community member is welcome to attend or to share ideas/recommendations for 2011 with a Mayor's Task Force member prior to the retreat.
- The Mayor's Task Force is interested in adding an additional member or two to the group for 2011. Those interested are encouraged to visit the City of Northfield website and complete an application (http://ci.northfield.mn.us/whatsnew/council/2010/11/12/seeking_applicants_for_advisory_boardscommissions).

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