



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

Summary of Current Projects:

- Provided support to the Town Hall Meeting that was held on November 8, 2009, at the Main Street Moravian Church. The event featured a panel of five local speakers sharing their personal stories of addiction and recovery in Northfield. More than 100 community members attended this event. The Task Force wishes to offer its sincere thanks to these individuals for sharing their stories and to Pastor Amy Gohdes-Luhman for her leadership organizing this important Town Hall series.
- Supported the "Take It to The Box" medication disposal program, which has been in operation for two 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 first pick-up by the medication disposal company took place recently. During the first six weeks of the program, more than 150 pounds of medication had been collected in Northfield alone.
- Coordinated the Task Force's monthly column for the *Northfield News*. The November piece focused on the importance of parental involvement in preventing youth substance use and tips for parents to promote good choices by youth.
- Working on a parent education series for middle and high school students. The campaign will feature a number of postcard mailings and columns with parenting topics about preventing youth substance use.
- Continuing to lead a court monitoring program of Rice County cases where someone is charged with supplying drugs to others and/or providing alcohol to minors.
- Continuing 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.
- A subcommittee of the Mayor's Task Force is beginning conversations about the resources and supports available to young adults (ages 18-23) in the community.

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