



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

Updates on March Activities:

- During the first five months of the “Take It to The Box” medication disposal project, more than 700 pounds of unneeded prescription and over-the-counter medication has been collected through the drop boxes in the Northfield and Faribault Police Stations. This has included more than 70 pounds of controlled substances.
- One of the top priorities for the Mayor’s Task Force this year is to increase parent education efforts around youth drug and alcohol use, as well as resources to support parenting. This recognizes the vital role that parents have in preventing youth substance abuse. The Mayor’s Task Force plans a series of parent education mailings to coincide with upcoming events, including prom, graduation, and summer vacation. The group also put together an educational display and packets of resources that were passed out to parents at the Northfield High School orientation for parents of next year’s 9th graders. The Mayor’s Task Force plans to take this display and resources to other upcoming school and community events.
- The Mayor’s Task Force is supporting an effort by the St. Olaf College Dean of Students Office to host a community discussion around underage drinking on college campuses. The event will be held at St. Olaf and will involve local college officials, students, college neighbors, local alcohol vendors, law enforcement, and concerned citizens. Expenses will be covered by funding from the “Federal Government’s Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking” as part of the national Town Hall Meeting series on Underage Drinking.
- At its March meeting, the Mayor’s Task Force approved a revised 2010 budget that reflects a 10% reduction in expenditures for 2010. This is in recognition that the City faces a very difficult budget situation this year and that all City entities are being asked to cut 8-10% of their budget.
- The co-chairs of the Mayor’s Task Force will present to the City Council on April 6, 2010, to update the council and the community on the programs, activities, and budget of the Task Force.

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