

SAFE HOMES PARENTS NETWORK

"Parents, guardians, and community working together for drug-free youth."

WHAT IS A PARENTS NETWORK?

A parents network is formed when a group of parents join together to work on a common concern or goal. Attention is focused on a particular issue ~ the welfare of their children, and how they can provide a healthier and safer environment for their children and their children's friends.

Adults recognize the powerful impact of youth peer groups and the pressure it places on our children. Children feel a sense of support and reinforcement when their peer group gives them approval. Now parents and adults can achieve this same feeling of support and encouragement when they join together to form a *SAFE Homes Parents Network*.

The *SAFE Homes Parents Network* provides a natural structure to empower parents. It is a forum for parents to meet and talk in a casual, non-threatening atmosphere, discussing common concerns and possible solutions. It allows parents to obtain new knowledge about our children's social scene and develop agreed upon guidelines and consequences.

The *SAFE Homes Parents Network* can include parents of your children's friends or parents from your school, church, or neighborhood. It can involve any adult who is interested and shares the same concerns and goals regarding young people.

If the homes of all youth would develop similar guidelines, children could no longer say to their parents, "*Jenny's parents let her stay out late.*" or "*Brad is allowed to go to that type of movie.*" Parents will have discussed these issues beforehand and agreed upon the same answer for their children.

Using the *SAFE Homes Pledge* as the foundation, parents can work together to challenge old attitudes of permissiveness and tolerance that many adults display when they ignore minors using alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Parents standing together can say, "***No more! We will not allow this to continue.***"

Parents working together provide unity and the consistency necessary to eliminate the pressures children feel to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs to fit in with their peers. As a group, parents will have agreed together on how to handle these difficult situations. They will know where their children are, what they are doing, whom they are with, and when they will return home. They will know that other parents will not allow alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in their homes; and that their children are being supervised by a "responsible adult" when visiting another home.

The *SAFE Homes Parents Network* can be started with any size group of parents and with any age of youth. ***Starting early is what makes prevention work.*** The earlier parents start working together, the more effective they will be.

GET STARTED TODAY!

