

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Morgan County Partnership. Don't forget to add [megan@morganpartnership.org](mailto:megan@morganpartnership.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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**MORGAN COUNTY  
PARTNERSHIP**



## Zombie Walk 2014!

Fall Newsletter

2014

Dear Partners,

We are so grateful for your continued support of the Partnership staff, programs and initiatives. Most recently we were overwhelmed by the communities' participation in our Zombie Walk, which was held on October 11th. We had 75 Zombies lurch, crawl, limp, and slither down Green Street and then take over the New Earth Granary, where we had the after-party! We are very appreciative of the the volunteers and musicians that made this event extremely fun and a huge success! Thank you to all! We want to especially recognize and thank Johnny Robinson of the New Earth Granary for allowing us to take over the building for our event; it was incredible!

During the upcoming new year, the Partnership will once again be busy writing grants, planning and implementing programs in our schools and communities. Our goal is to build youth assets! We, as do all of our partners, envision a future where all of the youth in our

county have all 40 developmental assets (as described by Search Institute ([www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org))) they need to be happy, healthy and successful! Take a few moments to read the article below about the 9 parenting strategies for raising a successful kid!

We hope you and your families have a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Kristin Willard  
Executive Director



## Preventing Underage Drinking this Holiday Season

Although the holidays are a joyous time of year, alcohol retailers, bars, and (especially) parents need to be extra aware of underage youth purchasing and/or drinking alcohol this holiday season. That's why **The Morgan County Partnership** would like everyone to embrace the spirit of Preventing Underage Drinking this season.

According to the most recent 2014 PRIDE Survey results; **19.3%** (combined grades 6-12) of Morgan County students reported that they drank alcohol in the last 30 days. Here is the breakdown by grade: 6<sup>th</sup> grade: **8.4%**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade: **6%**, 8<sup>th</sup> grade: **15.1%**, 9<sup>th</sup> grade: **19.7%**, 10<sup>th</sup> grade: **29.9%**, 11<sup>th</sup> grade: **29%**, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade: **34.2%**. In comparison to the last PRIDE survey conducted (in 2011), 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grades **increased** in alcohol consumption in the last 30 days. 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades **decreased** in alcohol consumption in the last 30 days. (11<sup>th</sup> grade was about the same).

There are also some parents who see underage drinking as a "Rite of



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### Upcoming Events:

**11/18/14: Positive Actions Training from 9am-3pm @ BOE**

**11/17/14: Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force from 12pm-1pm @ MCP Office**

**11/19/14: TIPS Training (on-premise) at 10am at Panorama at the Peak Restaurant**

Passage". According to the 2011 PRIDE Survey conducted in Morgan County, only 75.1% of the students reported that their parents disapprove of them drinking alcohol. In other words, about a quarter of the parents don't mind if their kids drink alcohol. However, in the most recent PRIDE survey, **81.4%** of students reported that their parents disapprove of them drinking. This trend upward is a good sign of parents recognizing the negative impact alcohol has on their children.

Contributing alcohol to a minor is not only illegal, but you are also putting youth at risk for future brain development deficiencies. New research is showing that adolescents who drink alcohol (especially in excess) are experiencing long-lasting learning disabilities, decision-making and reasoning inabilities, and memory loss, just to name a few. The research also shows that the human brain continues to develop into a person's early 20's. Exposure to alcohol in the teen years increases youth's likelihood of alcohol addiction. For each year that the age of drinking is delayed, the risk of later alcohol dependencies is reduced by 14%.

"The message here is not meant to keep underage kids from having fun at parties or other social events," said Shamus Cleveland, Evaluator and Program Facilitator at the Morgan County Partnership, "but to remind adults to think of our kid's health and safety before they give or sell alcohol to youth."

For more information on Underage Drinking Prevention, contact Shamus Cleveland at (304) 258-7807 or at [shamus@morganpartnership.org](mailto:shamus@morganpartnership.org).

**11/20/14: Adolescent Health Task Force from 9am-10am @ Starting Points**

**11/21/14: MCP Breakfast Meeting from 8am-9am at First Church**

**12/4/14: Assets Training from 9am-12pm at Children's Home Society**

**12/19/14: MCP Breakfast Meeting from 8am-9am at First Church**

**01/14/15: Prescription Drug Prevention Task Force from 12-1pm at MCP Office**



## **Celebrating National Recovery Month In September**

On September 4, 2014 the Partnership partnered with the local support group called Life or Drugs in hosting the annual Community Candlelight Vigil. This event is a time to support our loved ones who continue to struggle with an addiction, celebrate those in recovery and remember those who have passed away because of their addiction to alcohol or drugs. We are always

**MORGAN COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S  
TIP LINE:**

**304-258-2450**

This line is available  
24 hours a day, 7 days  
a week

Help them keep our  
community safe!

**Volunteers**



## **Above the Influence Campaign**

\_To recognize October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, the Partnership partnered with the schools to implement the national campaign called Above the Influence(ATI). Students were challenged with expressing how they choose to stand up to negative pressures and embrace positive influences in their lives through a poster and writing contest. Over **300** students participated in either the poster or writing portion of the contest and several community volunteers took the time to judge each entry. First place winners in each category will win a \$25 gift card! Check out the [MCP Facebook page](#) in December to see who won!

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## **WHAT GOOD ARE YOU DOING? Campaign**

\_This campaign is a project of the Partnership's **Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force**. This campaign was developed after reviewing the 2013-2014 Pride Survey Results, which revealed that the large majority of students in Morgan County are NOT abusing prescription medications!

Pride Survey Data:

- 96.3% of Morgan County youth are NOT abusing Rx drugs
- 81.3% of Morgan County youth feels it is dangerous to abuse

Rx drugs

- 93.2% of Morgan County parents disapprove of abusing Rx drugs

**This is great news!** As a result, the Task Force decided to create a positive media campaign that celebrates the **GOOD** things that youth are doing to impact the world! For example, pictured above is Hannah Abdelaal, a 10th grader at BSHS, who volunteers her time by playing piano for the residents at Berkeley Springs Rehabilitation and Nursing several times a month! There are many other youth in our community doing **GOOD** things and we want to share those stories and images with the community! Therefore, between **now and December 31, 2014**, we are encouraging youth, parents, teachers, and other adult role models to submit pictures of youth doing **GOOD** things!

For more information about how to participate in this campaign, click

[\*\*HERE!\*\*](#)

## **SBIRT Program Update**

In the first year of implementation, the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Program provided direct services to 617 students in Morgan County's middle and high schools.

Through questionnaires measuring risky substance use behaviors, in-class presentations on the impact and risks of substance use, and confidential conversations promoting positive health behaviors, many students in our community received increased information and support to promote their success! Approximately 116 students in the county received brief counseling sessions in response to their self-reported low to moderate substance use risk behaviors; 18 students received additional sessions for higher risk behaviors; and 7 students were referred to community based treatment for substance use and/or mental health problems.

In year two of the SBIRT Program, increased emphasis is being placed on providing educational presentations on topics that may lead to risky substance use including stress management, the importance of staying above the influence,

and other peer-to-peer issues including healthy relationships and information to combat sexual harassment. Through SBIRT programming and partnerships with school guidance departments, our hope is to continue promoting positive, healthy behaviors through prevention and early intervention to reduce adolescent substance use risks.



## **Asset Building Tips:**

### **9 Parenting Strategies for Raising a Successful Kid**

1. Create a warm, caring and supportive environment
2. Maintain open, honest communication
3. Connect your kid with other caring, responsible adults
4. Get involved in your kid's school and other activities
5. Empower your kids to contribute
6. Keep your child safe
7. Set boundaries and high expectations
8. Get to know your kid's friends
9. Be a positive role model

For the full article, go to:

[www.parentfurther.com/why/9-parenting-strategies](http://www.parentfurther.com/why/9-parenting-strategies)

For a Search Institute Resource for Families, go to:

[www.parentfurther.com](http://www.parentfurther.com) .



*Search Institute has identified 40 positive experiences and qualities that can help to ensure that young people succeed. They're called Developmental Assets, and surveys of thousands of students show that the more assets young people report experiencing, the fewer risky behaviors they'll engage in*



## MORGAN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

Mark all that apply:

- I am requesting membership information
- I would like to become a volunteer for the Coalition
- I would like to make a donation to the Morgan County Partnership

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests/Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Morgan County Partnership, 26 Chapman Street, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Make checks payable to the Morgan County Partnership. THANK YOU!!

The Morgan County Partnership is a 501 (C) 3 Non-Profit.