Lafayette alcohol, drug abuse drive on

Alcohol and drug abuse are very real problems in the Lafayette Parish School system. Take A Stand and the Lafayette Board of Realtors plan to take action with some very realistic goals. Take A Stand team members are currently raising the funds to support the position of an additional substance abuse counselor for Lafayette Parish.

Kicking off the week-long campaign, 13 teams met for a breakfast at the Lafayette Hilton Towers on Friday, May 17. The fund drive will be held until May 24.

Sharon Steen, executive director for Take A Stand and chairwoman of the 1985 Make America Better Committee, said, “Through months of research and brainstorming, we feel our number one priority is to raise the money to fund the position for an additional substance abuse counselor.”

Sylvia Kennedy, currently the only counselor for forty schools, quoted alarming statistics as to the impact of drugs and alcohol in Lafayette Parish. “In researching high school seniors, statistics show that six percent are drinking on a daily basis and over seven percent are smoking marijuana every day.”

Student’s Experience

Probably the most significant presentation followed as a personal account of drug and alcohol recovery was given by a Lafayette student. “I can’t remember much,” she says of her last year before seeking counseling, “but I remember not caring about anything. I didn’t want to live anymore; I even tried to kill myself once.” She expressed the impact that counseling and support groups had on her recovery. Her moving testimonial demonstrates the great need for support of the Take A Stand campaign.

For contribution information contact any Take A Stand team member. Teams are Team #1: Michael Stone, team captain; Team #2, Joyce Bonin, team captain, Rubie Kilchrist, Earline Isaacs, Hubert Hebert; Team #3: Jo Ann Person and Lana Ambler, team captains, Jody Prosper, Audrey Alleman, Kathy Bretches; Team #4: Carolyn Fitch, team captain, Chris Pettus, co-team captain, Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Abel, Jr., C. F. “Skip” Kimball III, Peggy Reynolds; Team #5, Gayle Woods, team captain, Debbie Moore, Deanna Davis, Braxton Moody, Karen LaRosen, Cathy Lacobie, Linda Robins.

Team #6, Caryl Horn, team captain, Marilyn Parrish, Dorothy Lampshire, Vickie Cruise, Susan Yerino, Rose Beaver, Bob Horn, Donna Reaux, Jody Young; Team #7: Glenn Steen, D.D.S., team captain, Dr. Jay Webre, Dr. Winston Diel, Dr. Neil Bernard, Dr. Steve Searcey, Beth Richey, Connie Elmore, Johnny Millette, Tommy Maggio, Phyllis Keaty; Team #8: Sharon Steen, team captain, Judy Murphy, Joy Moncla, Jackie Doise, Bobbie Scarbrook, Suzanne Bernard, JoAnn Guillory, Ann Fitzgerald, Jean Hargroder; Team #9: Pit Hesterly, team captain, Dale Thevenet, Chery Laughlin.

Team #10: Sandra Foutz, team captain, Sandra Wiley, Jane Bonin, Mag Ritchey, Greg Tonori; Team #11: Judy Garber, team captain, Kathy Turner; Team #12: Isabell Wren, team captain; Team #13: Kenneth “Budd” Goodwin, team captain, R. Lynn Guillory, A.R. “…Nick” Sim.

Contributions can be mailed to: Take A Stand, Lafayette Board of Realtors Office, 1602 West University, Lafayette, Louisiana 70506 or contact Sharon Steen at 233-0086.