

PRESS RELEASE

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST

VIDEO & POSTER CONTEST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(With guest contributor, Jeff Sams, Senior at Franklin High School)



Rachel Hutzel



Jeff Sams

There's a reason that alcohol is illegal for people under 21. Alcohol is the most commonly used drug among adolescents. It can slow down or damage the developing brain in young people. This damage can be long-term or even reversible. Symptoms include memory loss and impaired learning. Alcohol can damage every organ in an underage person's body and can increase the risk for many terminal illnesses. Alcohol is the Number 1 killer of teenagers today. Studies show that alcohol consumption by adolescents increase the risk of brain damage and intellectual development, not to mention increases in violence, suicide, addiction and criminal behavior.

As prom approaches, it is not uncommon for parents to host parties for teens where alcohol is readily available. According to the 2004 Roper Youth Report, a nationally recognized poll, 75 percent of teens ages 13-17 say their parents are the No. 1 influence in their decision to drink (or not drink) alcohol. Surprisingly, most parents don't know that providing alcohol to minors is illegal. Furthermore they are not aware that they can be held accountable for accidents

or deaths. According to Ohio law, parents can be held responsible for furnishing alcohol to any minor that is not their child, or for allowing minors to consume alcohol on their property.

The Coalition for a Drug Free Warren County, an organization made up of law enforcement, schools, courts, and churches, wants to prevent drug and alcohol abuse among youth. The Coalition, an affiliate of the Partnership for a Drug Free America, is sponsoring a video and poster contest for high school and junior high school students in Warren County. The Contest is the brainchild for Franklin High School Senior, Jeff Sams. Sams recently produced what he describes as a “very powerful...prom awareness video about teenage drinking and drunk driving”. Sams wants to spread the word to other schools and organizations in Warren County as a way to give back to the community he treasures.

Contest prizes include \$500.00 cash for the winning video and \$250.00 cash for the winning poster. Contest submissions are due March 31, 2006, and must be about parents who allow teen drinking. Winning videos and posters will be distributed by the Coalition as a part of its drug and alcohol awareness campaign.

For more information, call Coalition Secretary, Laura Riley, at 336-0070.