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Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention (A.S.A.P.)
Holds Community Forum on Underage Drinking

Catawba County is not immune to the problem of underage drinking. According to the 2008 PRIDE Survey results that polled 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Catawba County, 43% of middle and high school students said that alcohol is readily available for Catawba County minors.

To address the problem, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention (A.S.A.P.) of Catawba County will be hosting a community forum in conjunction with Lenoir-Rhyne University for parents, students, and professionals to discuss the problem of underage drinking in the community. Seating for the event is limited.

The free event will be held on Tuesday, April 13th at the McCrorie Center's Fintel Room 213 from 6 to 8pm. Light refreshments will be served and there will be door prizes at the forum.

“It’s important for people in the community and from all walks of life to voice their opinions on this very important issue,” explained Louise Ackerman, Chairwoman of A.S.A.P. of Catawba County. “Underage drinking has a community impact and requires a community solution.”

The forum will include a presentation from Angie Bass, president of the Catawba County Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) chapter and from the A.S.A.P. youth group on the affects of media on influencing underage drinking.

After the presentations, a group panel will take questions from the audience on underage drinking.

“We hope that those who attend the forum will come away with more information on this important issue and how it affects our community,” said Lynette Scott, organizer for the event. “This is something that needs to be talked about openly within families and in the community. We want the forum to provide the ground work for those conversations.”

A.S.A.P. is a volunteer coalition of Catawba County residents with members from all sectors of the community, including education, law enforcement, the criminal justice system, the faith community, mental health, social services, public health, local business, parents and youth.

Partnering together to enhance the quality of life for all people in Catawba County

The coalition is part of Catawba County Health Partners, a local Healthy Carolinians partnership organized to enhance the quality of life for all people in Catawba County. Health Partners currently focuses on four health priorities: Access to Healthcare, Childhood Obesity, Substance Abuse, and Cancer.

To learn more about A.S.A.P. or the Community Forum, please contact Louise Ackerman at 828-327-2788 or visit www.catawbacountyhealthpartners.org.