



R.A.D.A.R. N E T W O R K

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The Quarterly Newsletter of The Hawaii State R.A.D.A.R. Network Center

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Experience, Now a Tool to Prevent Violence By: Kahele Porter Drug-Free Hawaii

WHAT'S NEW

- **Mind Over Matter: The Brain's Response to Marijuana**



Designed for use by middle school students, this brochure provides scientifically based information about how marijuana acts in the brain and body. The back of this brochure is a colorful poster.

- **How to take the GRRRR Out of Anger (8-13 yrs. old)**

This book is a perfect tool for kids who want to learn to control their anger. It teaches skills such as calming down, solving anger issues, things to do when the anger starts to rise, tips on how to notice warning signs of anger by developing an "anger radar," and the list goes on! This publication is a social skills development tool and a manual of self-help for kids.



- **Ice - Hawaii's Crystal Meth Epidemic (Edgy Lee)**



Hawaii's rampant crystal methamphetamine (ice) use and its devastating effects on the local community are examined. The show, reveals riveting stories of ice addicts, children of addicts, and foster parents who care for newborns of women addicted to ice. The film details how ice affects the community at large and how it is linked directly to an increase in violent crime; child, elder, and spousal abuse; theft; rising insurance and retail rates, as well as social services and medical costs; and human costs that transcend dollar amounts. A host of international and local leaders – many of whom have been on the frontlines leading the fight against ice use – are also included in the film.

John*, a 30-year-old man from La'ie who turned his life away from gang-like activities, uses his past experience and reputation to reach out and educate you the sees choosing the same path.

While growing up in La'ie, he was involved in fights, brawls and was viewed as a gang leader during his high school years. Life was hard for him in school. He was labeled as a "gangster" by his peers, teachers and even the community. John felt betrayed, since in reality he was not a "gangster."

"We were just boys hanging out where we lived," he said. "But for some of my friends, it gave them a new identity and they loved the idea of it. I spent more energy trying to get my friends to stop acting like gangsters."

After a move to Los Angeles, John, was easily pulled-in by the gang lifestyle and culture. Much of what he was exposed to, most of his surroundings, was gang related. "I started doing the stuff and didn't even know how I got in," he said. "I was telling myself, 'I'm not a gang banger.' It was the lowest part of my life...I knew who I was and I knew my culture." He spent three years in L.A. before moving back home to La'ie.

Along the Ko'olauloa stretch of the North Shore, adolescent youth from six very distinct communities attend the same school, Kahuku High. Flare-ups between youth from different towns occur during school and sometimes continue with more intensity after school and on weekends.

According to John, there aren't any gangs in La'ie and Hau'ula. "It's all about territory. Naturally, if I'm from this town and you're from that town, and you say something wrong about my town, of course I'm going to feel offended." Though, John did admit to seeing the influence of gangs make its way to the countryside of La'ie and Hau'ula before.

"Fast talking gangsters from places like L.A. and Texas, who have family in La'ie, have come and stirred up trouble during their visits," John said.

"They started talking their talk, started saying that person said something about this person, and got everybody all pumped up to do something."

La'ie kids were fascinated by the way the gangsters looked and talked. Without thinking they bought in to what was being said and "tore up" a neighboring town. "It escalated from there," he said, "back and forth."

But time has taught many lessons to the man from La'ie. He holds priesthood at his church, is a first-time father to a 2-year-old baby girl, and is a person that cares deeply about his community.

John said, in order to guide youth away from the destructiveness of aggression and violence, there has to be a return to culture and a way to educate parents. There also has to be active involvement by people in their community, who have gone through the same experiences and can tell them different.

Many Samoan youth from L.A. have unknowingly replaced their Samoan culture for the gang banging culture. Kids in Hawaii have an advantage because, according to John, the culture in Hawaii is still intact. "When I talk to youth in this community about what they remember about and how it was in Samoa, and ask them to tell me about it, I see a change come over them and a peacefulness in their eyes," he said. "When I see that, I know I can get through to them."

Although some youth in La'ie respect him more for the "wars" they hear about from his past, he uses the attention they give him as an opportunity to provide solutions and prevent violence. "I talk to them and make them aware of what they are doing, about how it will be hard for them later. At first they don't want to hear it, but somebody has to tell them. It's almost like being a father, or uncle, or something," he said.

For more information about this article contact Kahele Porter at 545-3228 ext. 32.

*This person's name has been changed for confidentiality

Local Campaigns and Initiatives

REAL: The Hawaii Youth Movement Against Tobacco Use educates, motivates, and empowers youth (13-19) to take action against big tobacco companies who manipulate and target younger generations in order to get them to start smoking. The campaign, organized in 2000 by a group of 15 teens, has since ignited a fire in over a thousand youth throughout the state of Hawaii. **What stands out most about REAL?** It is a youth-led campaign, where all important decisions concerning events and marketing strategies are created and guided by youth leaders, who are in turn influenced by thousands of REAL participants. Anyone who joins will receive REAL gear (t-shirts, lanyards, etc.), but most important, they will be given the latest information about how tobacco companies continue to *target youth as potential customers to replace the smokers that die everyday*. Youth involved have an opportunity to gain knowledge about current tobacco issues, policies and laws, and learn how to research tobacco information. Youth members always get the latest invites to REAL sponsored events, including dances and rallies. **Get the word out! Join the movement!**

Visit REAL at www.therealmessagenet.net.



Drug - Free Hawaii Awareness Month

"February is a time to increase your awareness about substance abuse issues and join together in activities to promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles."

February 13, Ola Pono Awards Luncheon

This event is to award and honor those who make meaningful, as well as substantial contributions to our communities by promoting safe, healthy and drug-free lifestyles.

February 22, Hawaiian Style Backyard Jam

We invite your family to learn about substance abuse prevention, while enjoying the rhythm of top local performers, munching on a variety of ono food, and enjoying a picnic like atmosphere at the park. Come on out and support this drug-free experience!

This is a free event that you won't want to miss!

Kapiolani Park Bandstand, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Drug-Free Hawaii Educational Displays

Visit your local library and check out these unique displays.

The facts, illustrations and ideas will provide you with essential information guaranteed to educate, as well as guide you in substance abuse prevention for your family.



Initiation is another word for "rite-of-passage" and the core initiative of the Maui Hero Project (MHP). The program, launched with the ideas and experience of Loren Lapow, is a diverse, multi-cultural safe place for at-risk-youth. According to Lapow, it is an opportunity for them to form a "mini-culture," where they can share experiences, ideas, values, and at the same time, be a part of a positive peer culture. The curriculum, designed after the adventures of the demi-god Maui, follows an 8-week trek where appreciation of nature and being in tune with your surroundings is where one can discover knowledge, self-awareness, strength, and heart, while learning to overcome fears and make healthy choices. The program also motivates teamwork and brings to life ancient Hawaiian traditions through activities such as hiking, carving, taro farming, Hawaiian crafts and tool making, rock climbing, archery, fishing, diving, wilderness survival, ceremonies, kite surfing and horseback riding. After the 8-week trial, graduates can continue to be involved with other MHP youth by joining the MHP Graduate Programs: The Ali'i Program or Mo'Bettah Together. To learn more about the programs sponsored by the MHP and about the project's success, visit their website at www.mauihero.com.

Newsletter published by the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii.

Ku I Ka Mana

A Native Hawaiian Mentoring program, part of the Waimanalo Health Center is located at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School. This is a place where kids can hangout, get refreshments, pick up resources on substance abuse, receive homework assistance, attend occasional evening activities and most importantly, have a positive role model to talk to. The Ku I Ka Mana program has been at the school for eight years and translates to "I stand in reflection of those who have fed (nurtured) me." To the program staff, this translates to "If the bodies, minds and lives of our children are given healthy food, teachings, experiences, and guidance, then they will grow up healthy and strong. They will reflect on what they have been taught by their parents and grandparents." For more information, please contact Helene Mattos at 259-0358.

ADAD Training

Ethical Standards for Substance Abuse Counselors

Presented by: Chris Brown, LCSW, CSAC

Date: February 11, 2004

Time: 8:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: 601 Kamokila Blvd., Room 111, Kapolei

Contact: Lilia Calivo (ADAD) at 692-7522

Web Links

Log on to these sites for expert prevention & treatment information.

- www.mcgruff.org

A web site filled with different activities such as games, tips, coloring and even writing a letter to McGruff.

- www.champss.org

This website is created for children to help their parents quit smoking, and live long, healthy lives. CHAMPSS stands for Children Helping And Motivating Parents to Stop Smoking.

- www.acde.org/educate/Default.htm

The American Council for Drug Education (ACDE) is offering drug prevention lesson plans online to help educators counteract misinformation youth receive about drugs from friends, the street and the media. Each lesson plan is age appropriate and describes the objective of the lesson, background on the topic, resources and teacher tips, and then the activities to plan for this class time.

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