The past year has been exciting and challenging for Community – The Anti-Drug (CTAD) Coalition. We’ve gone through significant growth, both as an organization and in our ability to make a positive impact. We watched as more and more people and organizations got involved, including all the school districts feeding into our high schools, government leaders, the park districts, our police departments, healthcare agencies, faith leaders, more parents, and the youth themselves—all coming to the table to collaborate. We welcomed new volunteers to serve on our Board of Directors, and Township High School District 113 went so far as to donate office space at both high schools. Our members want to make a real impact, and to do so, they challenge one another to implement comprehensive, proven prevention strategies for lasting environmental change.

Local agencies and community members donated time and money to support our mission. Generous grants from the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park and from the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy enabled us to hire an Executive Director in June and a Program Coordinator this past January. To ensure sustainability of our coalition, we established by-laws and operating protocols with fidelity to 501(c)3 nonprofit organization standards and federal grant guidelines.

With all this support and collaboration, CTAD raised awareness, brought evidence-based programs to our schools, and encouraged consistent enforcement of laws. In other words, we built a strong foundation while continuing our work to protect our children. As you read our accomplishments in this report, we hope you feel as much pride in our community as we do. And as you read our goals for 2017, we hope you are inspired to join our efforts, to be part of the exciting accomplishments still to come. It is an honor to partner with the talented volunteers and staff who have joined our commitment to reduce substance use among our youth.

Sincerely,

Laura Kaufman
CTAD Co-President
Parent

Dr. Patrick Sassen,
CTAD Co-President
Assistant Principal,
Highland Park High School

CTAD’s vision is to build and sustain a safe and drug-free community in which our youth feel protected, confident and empowered to make healthy choices. We strive to transform the environment around our youth so that the drug-free choice is the easy choice. To do so, we bring together input and contributions from all sectors of the community—schools, parents, youth, government, healthcare, faith, law enforcement, youth-serving organizations and more. We regularly identify and implement best practices, strategies and solutions that are proven to be effective in accomplishing our mission.

THE NEED FOR CTAD

The good news is that the majority of students in our communities make the healthy choice to avoid drugs and alcohol. According to the Illinois Youth Survey conducted in March 2016:

- 70% of Township High School District 113 students choose not to drink alcohol*
- 83% report not using marijuana in the past month*
- Illicit drug use is very low—at or below the average of nine suburban, neighboring counties

That said, CTAD cares deeply about the health, well-being, and bright future of each and every student. We are concerned about those who do choose to use, and about the trends we see in the data. Based on past 30-day use rates, which researchers deem a snapshot of regular substance use among youth:

- Alcohol and marijuana are the most commonly used drugs.
- District 113 10th grade students are using at lower or the same rates, compared to suburban peers.
- 12th grade students, however, are using alcohol and marijuana at higher rates.

Continued on next page
In addition to being gateway drugs, alcohol and marijuana can have a significant impact on our young people. Alcohol remains the leading factor in the three most common causes of death for teens: automobile crashes, homicides, and suicides. Marijuana can cause distorted perceptions, impaired coordination, and problems with learning and memory. Both impede the development and full potential of their young brains, and both can cause poor judgment, poor school performance and failure in achieving lifelong goals. And if there is one thing CTAD members agree on, it’s that we want our youth to achieve their goals.

Research also shows that the earlier a student starts drinking or using marijuana—which is becoming increasingly more potent—the more likely they are to become addicted to them or to other illicit drugs later in life. Our goal is to set our young people up for success now and in their future.

* Illinois Youth Survey of 2,821 Deerfield & Highland Park High School 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th graders who responded that they did not use alcohol or marijuana in the past month.

In 2016, CTAD received two major grants which propelled CTAD to a new level of drug prevention and potential impact in our communities. A generous award from the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park allowed CTAD to hire its first full time staff. Six months later, CTAD was awarded a five-year matching Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy. This DFC grant provides CTAD with $125,000 per year for five years, provided that the community contributes matching support. Thereafter, there is the possibility of renewing the grant for an additional five years. Because of this, CTAD can develop long-term strategies to make long-term, lasting impact.

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals who supported CTAD and our mission to create a safe, healthy and drug-free environment for our youth*:

**Organizations**
- Office of National Drug Control Policy & Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park
- YEA! Highland Park
- Highland Park Community Foundation
- City of Highland Park
- Village of Deerfield
- Highland Park Human Relations Commission

**Individuals**
- Anonymous
- The Annenberg Family
- Richard & Julie Gordon
- The Gutman Family Foundation
- Michael & Lynne Lieber
- Daniel J Scahill
- David & Robin Small

To make a donation, visit us online at www.CommunityTheAntiDrug.org or mail a check to:

Communiy – The Anti-Drug Coalition
1707 St. Johns Ave. • Highland Park IL 60035

CTAD is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

EIN number: 451631475.

* Donations/grants received 1/1/16 – 12/31/16
Schools:
Bannockburn School District 106
Deerfield Public Schools District 109
North Shore School District 112
Township High School District 113
Holy Cross School

Cities & Villages:
Village of Bannockburn
Village of Deerfield
City of Highland Park
City of Highwood
Village of Riverwoods

Bannockburn Police Department
Deerfield Police Department
Highland Park Police Department
Highwood Police Department
Riverwoods Police Department

Park Districts:
Deerfield Park District
Park District of Highland Park

Agencies:
Deerfield Parent Network
Family Service of Lake County
Jewish Child & Family Services
Jordan Michael Filler Foundation
Lake County Health Department and
Community Health Center
NorthShore University HealthSystem
OMNI Youth Services
Rosecrance
Soft Landing Recovery
SunCloud Health
Trinity Episcopal Church

Other Drug Prevention Coalitions:
Lake County Underage Drinking and
Drug Prevention Task Force
LEAD
Link Together Coalition
Stand Strong Coalition
Stand UP Coalition
In partnership with five other community coalitions working on drug prevention in Lake County, a marijuana awareness campaign was developed. Information about marijuana’s impact on the teen brain was sent to 27,000 homes in Lake County—including 3,500 in our communities, appeared in the program for our high schools’ regional and sectional basketball finals, and was published in three editions of Reflejos newspaper in Spanish.

Ten local retailers participated in CTAD’s “Access Awareness” Campaign by posting messages on alcohol products and displays. The bottle hangers and window clings provided tips to help decrease the ease with which youth access alcohol.

Local law enforcement and government conducted a review of social host ordinances and provided recommendations for uniform ordinances in each community. These laws hold individuals responsible for hosting or permitting an event with underage drinking.

The City of Highland Park and the Village of Deerfield passed ordinances increasing the minimum age to buy tobacco products to 21 years. Tobacco products include e-cigarettes, or vape pens, which can also be used to ingest marijuana.
Our five local police departments collaborated with our parent committee to create the **Local Laws for New Drivers** brochure which contains information on curfews, graduated licenses, handheld devices, driving under the influence, and tips to stay safe. Local driving schools, high school driver education classes, and local organizations assisted with distribution. The brochure is also available to download on CTAD’s website.

CTAD launched a website in July and a new **monthly newsletter** format in September to distribute information to parents, youth and community members. It is also now possible to follow CTAD on Facebook and Twitter.

A **new logo** symbolizing community collaboration and teamwork was released in May. Watch for it as CTAD continues to expand and grow our efforts.

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**Students in 6th and 8th grade as well as all high school students at Deerfield & Highland Park High Schools participated in the **Illinois Youth Survey** in March. The data was collected, compiled and shared with each school district board. This information helps track CTAD’s progress and guides our strategies. In addition, a parent survey was distributed to parents of high school students.**

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**The Botvin’s Life Skills Training program** expanded into additional grade levels in Deerfield Public Schools District 109 and North Shore School District 112. This substance abuse prevention program has been proven by research to reduce the risks of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse, and violence by targeting the major social and psychological factors that contribute to risky behaviors.

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**Ways to Stay Safe**

- Wear a seat belt on every trip.
- Use a hands-free phone system, pull over to use your phone, or ask a passenger to do the texting/calling.
- Know who and what is in your car. If it’s in your car, it belongs to you.
- Pledge never to ride with someone who has been drinking.
- Before going out, make a pact with friends to not drink or use other drugs.
- Agree on a code word/phrase to text a parent or other adult to let them know you need a safe ride home.
- File your emergency contacts with the Secretary of State.
- Share this information with friends.

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**Sources:**


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**Community – The Anti-Drug (CTAD)** is a collaborative coalition working to reduce alcohol and other drug use among youth in Bannockburn, Deerfield, Highland Park, Highwood, and Riverwoods.

Please contact us with questions, comments or to join our efforts. We want to hear your voice.

[info@CommunityTheAntiDrug.org](mailto:info@CommunityTheAntiDrug.org)
[224-713-CTAD](tel:224-713-CTAD)
[@CommunityTAD](https://www.twitter.com/CommunityTAD)

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**Drinking & Drugged Driving**

- Curfew Laws
- Graduated Licenses
- Cell Phones & Electronic Devices

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Provided in Partnership by:

- Bannockburn Police Department
- Deerfield Police Department
- Highland Park Police Department
- Highwood Police Department
- Riverwoods Police Department
2017 GOALS & ACTIVITIES

In 2017, Community – The Anti-Drug (CTAD) has two overarching goals:

**Goal 1**
Increase community collaboration and strengthen the capacity of CTAD partners to affect positive environmental level change.

**Goal 2**
Reduce youth substance use. Because alcohol and marijuana are the most commonly used drugs, CTAD’s objectives are to:
- reduce alcohol use among high school students
- increase the number of students who perceive marijuana use to be harmful

To reduce youth substance use, CTAD leverages the knowledge and skills of the many community representatives around the table as well as the many rich resources available in our communities to:
- provide information
- enhance drug prevention skills of teachers, coaches, parents and student leaders
- advocate for and support evidence-based drug prevention programs and strategies
- change consequences for drug use
- augment incentives for drug-free choices
- modify/enforce policies regarding alcohol and drug use in the schools and the community

**Programs for Parents**
- Explore parent/child communication activities
- Parent education workshops
- Access Awareness Campaign

**Youth Initiatives**
- Student leader training program
- Youth prevention program/club
- Resources & training for coaches and club sponsors

**School Programming**
- Expand evidence-based programming in schools
- Support existing Botvin Life Skills Training Program
- Review school prevention and support services & recommend possible enhancements

**Enforcement Strategies**
- Review & recommend local ordinance revision and policy change
- Implement enforcement strategies such as compliance checks and shoulder tapping

**Faith**
- Assess needs & interests of faith community regarding drug prevention
- Incorporate the culture, strengths, and needs of diverse faiths in CTAD activities

**Evaluation**
- Compile & review local data to track progress and drive decisions
- Develop additional assessment tools as needed

**Finance**
- Annual budget
- Oversight of bookkeeping & tax preparation

**Community Education**
- Up to date website
- Monthly newsletters to parents & community
- Parent & student media campaigns in collaboration with Lake County Health Department

**Finance**
- Annual budget
- Oversight of bookkeeping & tax preparation

**Membership**
- Member recruitment, training & retention by providing meaningful, engaging opportunities and recognition of contributions

Join CTAD’s Efforts

To get involved in or contribute to any of the above activities, please contact us at info@CommunityTheAntiDrug.org or call us at 224-765-CTAD (224-765-2823).

Volunteers work alongside local government officials/administrators, law enforcement, health care providers/counselors, clergy, public health experts, and school officials/educators. Students can list volunteer work on college applications and resumes, and may receive letters of recommendation for their efforts. All volunteers receive guidance from committee chairs and CTAD’s staff.
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Co-President
Parent

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Vice President
Assistant Principal
Deerfield High School

Ghida Neukirch
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David Small
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High School District #113

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Court Williams
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Village Manager
Village of Deerfield

Harriet Rosenthal
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Mayor
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2016 OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBERS

THANKS! for your contributions!

Dr. Sandra Arreguin, North Shore School District 112
Beth Bernat, Parent
Megan George, NorthShore University Health System
Rick Julison, Deerfield Park District
Dr. Tom Koulentes, Highland Park High School
Annette Lidawer, District 113 School Board
Brian Romes, Park District of Highland Park
Chief John Sliozis, Deerfield Police Department

* Executive Board Member
This report was made possible by the hard work and talents of CTAD’s Communications Committee and staff. Special thanks to Lilly Brandt, Barbara de Nekker, Christine Gonzalez, Laura Kaufman, Anna Kedjidjian, Cathy Kedjidjian, Liz Nelson, Steve Sadin, Patrick Sassen, Martha Silberman, and Catherine Spencer for their contributions.

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