



IMPACT

YOUR COMMUNITY



News for and about leaders in substance abuse prevention.

Fall 2008

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**Announcing
Impact's
New Look!**

Illinois Teen Institute 2008 In Review

July 17, 2008 the thirty-fourth annual Illinois Teen Institute came to a conclusion. Three-hundred enthusiastic, motivated, and enlightened youth and adults listened as Bill Johnson, the closing speaker, challenged the participants to return home, practice what they have learned at ITI, and make a difference.

Held at Monmouth College July 13-17, ITI 2008 was attended by nearly 300 youth and adults! Participants heard from featured speakers on the topics of leadership, substance abuse prevention, diversity, and self-motivation; as well as participated in small group discussions, workshops, and completed Community Action Plans for their schools and/or community.

Needless to say, ITI 2008 was a huge success; however, the success of ITI could not have happened without the unselfishness of the volunteer staff that are the heart and soul of ITI! ITI's continued success is a direct reflection of their dedication, commitment, and compassion for the program! A heartfelt thank you goes out to each and every volunteer for their hard work!



The theme of ITI 2008, "All Natural Leaders," rang true throughout the event as the students discussed having the freedom and the power to choose at all times; however these students choose to be drug, alcohol, and tobacco free for a better tomorrow. These students choose to impact the lives of friends, family, and community members around them. These leaders choose to make a difference.

Congratulations to all the ITI participants on a job well done! We are looking forward to hearing about the implementation of your action plans and how it positively impacts those around you. Please remember to send your information, pictures, and articles to IADDA at 937 South Second Street, Springfield, IL. 62704, ATTN: IMPACT or email them to Shelly at smusser@iadda.org. One team and/or one individual will be chosen to be honored at the closing ceremonies of ITI 2009 with an Achievement Award for their hard work, execution, and completion of their Action Plan.



Applications for the 2009 Teen Institute will be available in hard copy as well as via the website in November! See you next year!



Dear Friends,

Fall brings new beginnings, as many of you are starting a new school year and we are preparing to kick off another cycle of the Operation Snowball year-round process. Numerous chapters are returning for the Illinois Teen Institute with a Community Action Team plan and are ready to share new skills and attitudes about the benefits of drug-free living.

Fall also brings the kickoff of our workplace giving campaign, Community Shares. Did you know that Operation Snowball Inc. is listed as a charitable organization in the CS campaign? Now is a great time to write a note to your colleagues to get them to join you in promoting a drug-free lifestyle with Operation Snowball. Donating to Operation Snowball Inc. is easy with Community Shares, similar to United Way, CS allows you to give a lump sum donation or to sign up for a specific amount to be deducted from your paycheck. Is your school or organization signed up to participate in the Fall CS campaign? If not, it is not too late to get involved. Call Mary Jo Peavy at (800) 252-6301 extension 18 or email mpeavy@iadda.org to initiate this simple process. Operation Snowball thanks you for your dedication to helping youth lead drug-free lifestyles.

What new beginnings does fall bring to you and your chapter? We would love to hear from you! Don't be shy. Write a short article to be included in the next IMPACT!

Warm fuzzies,

Marilee Muirhead
Chair

Spike Grossheusch
Vice Chair

Rob Grupe
Treasurer

Charla Waxman
Past Chair

McHenry County's Mid-Level Institute

Submitted by Lori Baker

Attention! Attention! Here is some important news about the 8th Annual Mid-Level Institute for McHenry County that will take place October 24-26, 2008! With less than three months until the big event, we have a great schedule outlined for the participants. Our presenters include Victor Pacini, Ted Wiese, Motivational Productions, and Family Service. They will be presenting topics such as being motivated, leadership, taking healthy risks, and decision making.



This is a wonderful opportunity to gain new leadership skills and meet new people who, like you, want to make a difference. If you are interested in attending as a participant or as youth or adult staff, please contact Lori Baker, Manager of Prevention Services for Family Service, at (815) 669-2485. We expect to have capacity numbers for participants and staff alike, so make sure you contact us as soon as possible. We hope to see you in October!

Social Networking And Prevention

Submitted by Emma Trevor, OS Board of Directors Youth Advocate

They've said it before and they'll say it again, this generation of young people is different than any that has preceded us. But besides our improved test scores, lower infant mortality rates, or greater frequency of allergies, the trait that truly sets us apart is technology. It's simply amazing. The way the four-year-old can work all six remote controls. How a ten-year-old can research for a school project—encountering hundreds of encyclopedia articles and scientific journals—just by accessing the internet. Not to mention how teenagers can keep in touch with friends and family all over the globe through a social networking site called Facebook.

Many argue that Facebook is dangerous or that it promotes risky behavior in regard to alcohol and substance abuse. Suggestive pictures and status updates can create an image of “everybody’s doing it”—especially on holidays such as New Year’s and St. Patrick’s Day, un-

derage students often feel the pressure to go along with the crowd and drink, simply because their Facebook friends publicly displayed poor conduct on the internet. I won’t deny that this creates a new challenge for prevention in this generation, but I’ve come to recognize that Facebook can just as easily serve as a tool promoting healthy choices.



In April, when I decided to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I was nervous to enter an enormous campus. When I pictured my first weekend at school, I feared I would be the only sober person around. But soon I began befriending similar-minded, drug- and alcohol-free incoming freshman through Facebook. A few of us

discussed throwing a party the first Saturday night after we move in. We created a Facebook event, invited a few people, and the idea, well, snowballed! As of the end of July, we are expecting over 150 freshmen at our sober shindig. We expect that number will continue to grow as the event gets closer.

My generation may be bombarded with alcohol advertisements—on television, in magazines, on the internet, and even on a friend’s Facebook profile, but we can utilize the communication methods of the young to inspire all to lead healthy, alcohol-free lives. Every day I witness the speed with which ideas spread, the power of today’s technology, and thus the influence one person can have on hundreds. I trust my peers—especially those lucky enough to be a part of Snowball—will discover the power of one in themselves, and apply it to any and all future technological advances.

Become An ITI Leadership Team Member!

IADDA will be taking applications for the Illinois Teen Institute Leadership Team 2009 beginning in November 2008. The Leadership Team is an important function of ITI; responsibilities include: participating in the planning process for ITI, attending the Leader-



ship Retreat in June, attending staff training, attending ITI, participating in the Leadership Debriefing in September and fulfilling all obligations and responsibilities associated with the Leadership Position assigned.

Available positions include Co-Director, Consultant, Administrative Coordinator, and Activity Coordinator. Leadership team is open to anyone who has staffed ITI for two or more years and the deadline is January 1, 2009.

If you are interested in serving as a Leadership Team Member for 2009, please contact Shelly Musser at 800-

252-6301 ext. 16. Applications will be posted on the ITI website in November at www.os-iti.org. Your participation and interest in continued leadership growth and the Institute is greatly appreciated! Together, lets take ITI to a new level!

ITI Soaring To New Heights

Calling all volunteer staff, participants, and professionals interested in improving the Institute program! Please join us in the ITI planning process as we plan to take ITI to the next level of excellence! Planning meetings for ITI 2009 have been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2008 and Saturday, January 24, 2009 from 12:00 PM – 4:30 PM. Lunch will be provided at each planning meeting and the location is TBD. If you would like to participate and help take ITI to new heights, please contact Shelly Musser at 800-252-6301 ext. 16 or smusser@iadda.org.



Join the 2009 Mid-Level Institute Planning Committee!

Want to help shape the 2009 Mid-Level Institute?

Join the Planning Committee!



We're looking for youth, adults, volunteer staff, and other professionals to join the collaborative planning group that will help organize the 2009 Mid-Level Institute (MLI). As a member of the Planning Committee, you will play a large role in deciding what MLI 2009 looks like, adding new elements, updating curricula, coordinating a six month reunion, choosing workshops, suggesting speakers, developing a theme and logo, as well as promoting the Mid-Level Institute to eligible youth and staff members! There is a lot of work to

be done, but more importantly, a lot of fun and memories to be made!

If you are interested in shaping the future the MLI, please contact Shelly Musser at 217-528-7335 ext. 16 or smusser@iadda.org. Please be prepared to commit to participating in one planning meeting per month, either in person at the IADDA office in Springfield or via conference call. Specific dates and times of meetings to follow.

OS Board Spotlight - Patrick Ferrell

I have been on the OS board for about a year now. My work in prevention started more than a decade ago, when I was involved in OS and ITI as a teen. After starting a full-time job, prevention fell back a tad, but was never far away. As a reporter for the Sun Times News Group in Chicago, I often gave presentations on media literacy to Snowballs and other programs throughout the state.

Now, as a somewhat newly-minted member on the board, I hope to bring more publicity and recognition to

Snowball and other prevention programs. I live in Will County with my wife, Laura, our Portuguese water dog, Oscar, and bloodhound named Duke. When I'm not working, I can usually be seen careening down a ski slope or watching a race.

Part time, I teach ACT and SAT prep classes in the Chicagoland Area. I also write a blog entitled "Get Off My Lawn" as part of my full time

job. The blog – which is a collection of rants usually written from my inner 63-year-old – can be accessed by pointing your computer to blogs.suburbanchicagonews.com/ferrell.



If you ever need ideas or thoughts on how to better promote your programs, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting all of you in the future.

Keep the ball rolling...celebrate **Red Ribbon week!** Chapters are encouraged to plan and/or participate in the annual Red Ribbon campaign. Use this opportunity to get the Snowball mission out and recruit youth and adult members.

Support Operation Snowball, Inc. and purchase Red Ribbon Week items from Prevention Partners. Go to <http://www.preventionpartners.org/os> to order supplies.

Thank You ITI Scholarship Providers

ITI would like to thank the scholarship providers for 2008.

Our Largest Providers

Illinois Sheriffs' Association
Chicago Public Schools

Illinois Valley Anti Drug Coalition
Waterloo Community Unit #5
Greater Fox River Valley OS
Goodman Family Foundation
Canton High School
Village of Elmwood Park
FHN
Alton High School
ITI Staff
Norris City-Omaha-Enfield Dist #3
Levi Ray Shoup Inc.
Bremen Dist 228 OS
Pleasant Plains OS
Oak Lawn Community HS
Chestnut Health Systems
Elgin High School
Menard Co. School & Comm.
Task Force
Lynn Welling
Juile Marsteller

LaSalle County States Attorney
Daniel Vanchieri
Randall Anderson
Bruce Meadow
John Haley
William Keller
Tommie Hacker
John Marich
Township of Downers Grove
Michael Kelley
South Elgin High School
Gerald Steppe
Siemer Milling Company
Heartland Human Services
Teutopolis Knights of Columbus
Mary Pacourek
Beecher City Tri-County Ruritan Club
Effingham Elks Lodge #101
Illinois Directors of Student Activities
Clarendon Hills Womens Club
Metamora Woman's Club
Thomas Phistry
VFW Post Auxiliary 454
Mark Dziedzic
Sacred Heart Council of Catholic
Women
Jane Struckmeyer

Teutopolis American Legion Post 924
Jerseyville Police Department
Elmwood Park High School
First State Bank of Beecher City
GFWC-IL Effingham Women of Today
Rob Grupe
Catherine Thielberg
Durand IL Legion-Gold Star Post 676
Dick Cuthbertson
Paul Hardin
Charles Cuthbertson
Beierman Buick-Pontiac-GMC
Whitworth-Horn-Goetten Insurance
Argo Community High School
Bolingbrook High School
Matilda Mayberry
Libby Young
Laura Borgula
Jessica Bahena
Jose Castillo
Peter Marich
Raelene Struckmeyer
Alessandra Morbidelli



ITI Advocates For Substance Abuse Funding In IL

The Illinois Teen Institute (ITI) celebrated 34 years of teen leadership development and substance abuse prevention training and action planning. ITI was held at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois July 13-17, 2008. More than 275 youth and adults from across Illinois attended the camp.

ITI is a program of the Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association (IADDA) and is funded in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS). However, there is funding trouble ahead.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich cut \$55 million from the addiction treatment budget for the state fiscal year which began July 1, and the department of human services because of matching federal grants, it actually amounts to a \$110 million cut.

The loss of the Federal dollars will eliminate the state's community-based prevention system, because it will lose more than 85 percent of its existing funding.

"Without the Federal money, every community-based prevention provider will be shuttered," said Moscato Howe.

ITI participants took their lunch times to look up government officials in their district and make phone calls expressing their views on the Illinois budget

crisis and how prevention was being cut. They all signed a banner, pleading for the restoration of funds that will be passed on to legislators.

More than 1,000 advocates and clients rallied on July 23rd at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago to urge Senate President Emil Jones (D-Chicago) to return to Springfield and restore



more than \$43 million to the state budget for alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment and recovery support programs. The ITI banner was used during the rally.

"If the Senate fails to override the Governor's veto, the prevention and treatment system in Illinois will throw more than 42,000 people out of care, igniting a health care crisis," stated Sara Moscato Howe, CEO of the Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association (IADDA).

"We urge Senator Jones to return to Springfield and override the Governor's vetoes," said Moscato Howe.

Sen. Pamela Althoff, R-Crystal Lake, who attended the graduation ceremony urged the students to focus their energies on any supplemental bills that will arise when the General Assembly returns in the fall. She said they needed to make legislators understand that this program needed any additional funds that become available.

"Tell them you're not going to be quiet — and you are going to be voters," she said.

ITI Program Manager, Shelly Musser says, "ITI talks a lot about the power of positive support systems. Having friends that make the same choices. You have to stand up for what you believe in."

Jasmine Brown, a student from Chicago, read a poem she had written — asking "what type of leader are you?" — which epitomized some of what she had learned. Bad leaders, she points out, can take people down the path of destruction just as easily as good ones can lead others to success. She said she needed "friends on the same path, not holding me back."

Even with the seriousness of the budget the participants experienced the magic of ITI and went back to their communities with action plans for preventing substance abuse.

Stay current with Illinois Teen Institute and Operation Snowball news and events - join the listserv and read the news blog at www.os-iti.org!

SNOWMENTUM

The following is a list of Operation Snowball chapter events, trainings, and board meetings. Also, included are the Illinois Teen Institute and Mid-level Institute planning meetings and event dates.

September 13, 2008

ITI Leadership Debriefing

Location TBD

Contact Shelly Musser at 800.252.6301 x. 16 or smusser@iadda.org

November 8, 2008

ITI 2009 Planning Meeting

Location TBD

Contact Shelly Musser at 800.252.6301 x. 16 or smusser@iadda.org

February 27, 2009

OS Board of Directors Meeting

IADDA, Springfield, IL

Contact Mary Jo Peavy at 800.252.6301 x. 18 or mpeavy@iadda.org

September 20, 2008

OS Board of Directors Meeting

Chestnut Health Systems, Bloomington, IL

Contact Mary Jo Peavy at 800.252.6301 x. 18 or mpeavy@iadda.org

December 6, 2008

OS Board of Directors Meeting

Chestnut Health Systems, Bloomington, IL

Contact Mary Jo Peavy at 800.252.6301 x. 18 or mpeavy@iadda.org

April 4, 2009

OS Board of Directors Meeting

Chestnut Health Systems, Bloomington, IL

Contact Mary Jo Peavy at 800.252.6301 x. 18 or mpeavy@iadda.org

October 24-26, 2008

Mid-level Institute for McHenry County

Contact Lori Baker at 815.669.2485

January 24, 2009

ITI 2009 Planning Meeting

Location TBD

Contact Shelly Musser at 800.252.6301 x. 16 or smusser@iadda.org

June 13, 2009

OS Board of Directors Meeting

Conference Call

Contact Mary Jo Peavy at 800.252.6301 x. 18 or mpeavy@iadda.org

To submit a date please contact IADDA at 800.252.6301, extension 52 or email iadda@iadda.org for consideration.

Seeking OS Board Nominations

Operation Snowball is looking for qualified individuals to represent their chapter and district by serving a two-year term for the OS Board of Directors. Operation Snowball chapters are divided into ten districts. Each accredited OS chapter is assigned to a district based on their location. Each district then elects one person to the Operation Snowball, Inc. Board of Directors every two years. Two people are also elected to at-large seats that provide additional regional representation to the board. Every chapter has the right

to nominate and vote for the board member of their choice in their district. The board is searching for new members who are educators, preventionists, law enforcement, business leaders, parents, or public officials.

This year, nominations will be accepted for OS Board seats in districts 1, 4, 6, 7, and 11 are up for election for two-year terms and district 5 and 9 for a one-year terms. Please note that district 11 is an at-large district representing districts 3, 4, and 6 and district 12 is an

at-large district representing districts 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Nominations will be mailed in October. Elections will be held in December. Operation Snowball has a very dedicated and hard-working Board of Directors. If a chapter has a concern or question, or needs assistance, a board member is available to provide that assistance. Board members serve your chapter's needs. For more information, contact Mary Jo Peavy at 800.252.6301, ext. 18 or mpeavy@iadda.org.

Mary Heinrich Presented With Liberty Bell Award

On June 12, 2008, the Kane County Bar Association presented its annual Liberty Bell Award to Adult Co-Director Mary Heinrich from the Greater Fox River Valley Chapter of Operation Snowball (GFRVOS). The award was presented to Mary for her work with GFRVOS, which serves 13 high schools in Kane County. Mary was nominated by Kane County Assistant State's Attorney Steve

Sims (right), who has volunteered as an adult co-facilitator with GFRVOS.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented to a citizen "for promoting a better understanding of the rule of law by encouraging a greater respect for the law and the courts, stimulating a sense of civic responsibility and contributing to good government within the community".



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IADDA Staff

CEO: Sara Howe

COO: Peggie Powers

Business Manager: Pel Kelley

External Program Manager (OS): Mary Jo Peavy

External Program Manager (ITI): Shelly Musser

Policy Analyst: Suzanne McLean

Office Assistant: Laurie Campbell

OS staff is provided through a contract between the Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association and Operation Snowball, Inc.

IMPACT Your Community invites your comments, articles or photographs. An article must be submitted in typed, double-spaced format. Photos must include caption or an explanation of the event. Please direct all articles or comments to:

Operation Snowball, Inc./Illinois Teen Institute
937 South Second Street • Springfield, IL 62704
800.252.6301 or 217.528.7335
www.os-iti.org •

Governor Proclaims October As Operation Snowball Month



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Operation Snowball, Inc. Board of Directors: Marilee Muirhead, Chair; Charla Waxman, Past Chair; Spike Grossheusch, Vice Chair; Position open, Secretary; Rob Grupe, Treasurer; Emma Trevor and Jeff Weishaar, Youth Advocates; Jason Bolden, Patrick Ferrell, Marie Goulet-Raffety, Ron Jakubisin, Alissa LaRose, Charles Patton, and Linda Pfeifer, Board Members.

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Operation Snowball, Inc. / Illinois Teen Institute

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