



T A H O E
YOUTH & FAMILY
S E R V I C E S

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El Dorado County District Attorney
515 Main Street
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July 29, 2018

Dear Mr. Clinchard,

It would be an ideal world if youth drug experimentation and use wasn't a concern, but the reality is that drugs will never go away. How do we then combat this problem? How do we prepare our youth for those moments when concerned adults are not around to guide them? The answer: we provide youth with accurate information from leaders in our community and we provide it as often as possible.

According to NIDA, National Institute of Drug Abuse, abuse of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs is costly to our Nation, exacting more than \$700 billion annually in costs related to crime, lost work productivity and health care costs. Both the 2015 & 2018 Barton PRC Community Health Needs Assessment and the 2018 Drug Store Project Student Survey identify the concern about substance use in our own community. Reducing the demand for drugs is the only way for our community to raise healthier and happier children.

The goal of the Drug Store Project is to reduce the demand by youth to experiment with drugs in the first place. This comprehensive middle school drug prevention program is designed to educate youth about the real consequences of substance use and abuse. Now in its 16th year, the Drug Store Project is an event where the community of Lake Tahoe comes together to provide what is the largest collaborative event conducted in our area. This year over 45 agencies, 225 volunteers, and 325 students will participate in our program. The Drug Store Project is a series of 16 vignettes which students experience first-hand. Each vignette is 11-minutes in length and students move in groups of 35 through the "story line" for the day guided by members of the California National Guard, Naval Air Station Fallon, and community and agency volunteers.

Who will we serve? This year 325 sixth-grade students from Lake Tahoe Unified School District, Zephyr Cove Elementary, and home schooled youth will be served. It's interesting to note that each year those who volunteer for the program also learn new information. Parents learn from their children by having discussions held at home following the event and the community itself learns more through the publicity of our event and from the website.

Anticipated outcomes? The primary expected accomplishments of the Drug Store Project include the reduction of future drug experimentation/use/abuse and increase in student knowledge regarding the harmful effects and dangers of underage drinking and drug use. These expected outcomes are measured by pre and post event evaluations as well as debriefing sessions held after the event in each classroom following the event. As past project outcomes demonstrate, the Drug Store Project changes decisions, impacts behaviors, and ultimately changes young lives for the better. Our survey results are available at <http://www.makeschoolssafe.com> along with a detailed program description. Even though drugs remain prevalent in our community, we strongly believe that this program makes a difference to at least one child. **It is that single child that drives us all to provide this program each and every year.**

Amount being requested: Tahoe Youth & Family Services (TYFS) respectfully requests \$2,000.00 to support the coordination and implementation of the Drug Store Project to be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. The total cost of this year's program is \$40,531.00. We receive in-kind services and products totaling \$23,400.00 from our local businesses and we raise the remaining \$17,131.00 through grant writing and donations from our many service clubs in town. The total cost per pupil (not including in-kind donations) is \$53.00, a small price for a life.

This year-long planning and implementation process has begun! The payee for funds is Tahoe Youth & Family Services with a memo for Drug Store Project. The address is: Tahoe Youth & Family Services, 1021 Fremont Avenue, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

I look forward to answering any questions you may have and would be happy to provide a presentation to your organization. You can also find more information on the actual program at www.makeschoolssafe.com. Simply go to the Drugs Store Project page for a program description, a PowerPoint presentation, and student survey information from last year's event. You'll also see a link where individuals in your organization can sign up for our "community volunteer" portion of the event so please share.

Best regards,

Lisa Huard, Drug Store Project Coordinator, lhuard@ymail.com, 530-318-5356

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The Drug Store Project
A community's efforts in Drug Prevention for its youth.

Program Description 2019 Event

The Drug Store Project is a comprehensive middle school drug prevention program designed to educate youth about the dangers of substance use and abuse. Here in South Lake Tahoe, **The Drug Store Project** is in its **16th year** and continues to be the single largest collaborative prevention activity that is conducted in our area.

While our community did not "invent" the concept of this program, we certainly made it our own. Early on, the team of like-minded in our community collaborated with the idea that each of us could bring our talents and know-how together for a common good: providing our youth with an impressive opportunity to learn that they themselves will be the individuals making the final decisions when it comes to drug experimentation and use. Over the years we have altered some of the message delivery to our youth as it became apparent that many of these kids return home to parents and other loved ones who are using. We want our youth to know the dangers of ALL drugs and the negative impact it can have on their minds, bodies, home life and future aspirations knowing that drugs are bad, not the people.

This year we will impact **325 sixth-grade students** from Lake Tahoe Unified School District and Zephyr Cove Elementary School in addition to home-schooled youth. The event will be conducted at Lake Tahoe Community College on **Tuesday, April 2, 2019**.

This year the following entities are making the program a reality:

Barton Health, California Conservation Corps, California Highway Patrol, CALSTAR,
Cal Tahoe JPA, Camelot Party Rentals, Douglas County Search & Rescue,
El Dorado Community Foundation, El Dorado County District Attorney,
El Dorado County Mental Health, El Dorado County Probation Department,
El Dorado County Public Defender, El Dorado County Search & Rescue - Tahoe Team,
El Dorado Sheriff's Office, El Dorado County Superior Court, Harrah's Foundation,
Harrah's HEROS, Joint Task Force Domestic Support-CD, Kindred Hospice,
Kiwans Club of Lake Tahoe, Kiwanis Club of Tahoe Sierra,
Lake Tahoe Community College, Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel, Lake Tahoe Unified School District,
Lake Valley Firefighter's Association, Lake Valley Fire Protection District,
Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada Funeral Services, Pro Leisure,
South Lake Tahoe Fire Department, South Lake Tahoe Police Department,
Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe, Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra,
South Lake Tahoe Police Officer's Association, South Tahoe Drug Free Coalition,
South Tahoe High School Friday Night Live, South Tahoe Middle School, Tahoe Optimist Club,
Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District, Tahoe-Douglas Rotary Club,
Tahoe Youth & Family Services, Zephyr Cove Elementary
and Community Volunteers.

It is the involvement by these organizations which sends a clear message that our community values and cares for our youth and will do whatever is necessary to keep students healthy and drug free. In addition, we work to assist other interested communities with the technical assistance needed to provide this special programming for their own youth. Each year we welcome "visitors" to our program who observe the event with the anticipation of holding their own. They take back with them the belief that if the program helps just one child to make a better choice, then the program is a success.

The Drug Store Project is a series of vignettes which students experience first-hand. Each vignette is approximately 11 minutes in length. Systematically students move in groups of 35 through the "story-line" for the day. The location chosen, Lake Tahoe Community College, is a deliberate one. We want

students to focus on the future and all the possibilities ahead of them. The college location brings to many their first experience of being on our college campus. This location is so important to our program's goals that once the college aligns its calendar with LTUSD, we will be changing the time of year that we hold the program to September.

Station One: Gateway Drugs (Led by the Lake Tahoe Drug Free Coalition)

Students are provided with an overview of the drugs identified as "Gateway Drugs" (tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana). The emphasis of this vignette is to provide all students with a foundation of information needed to understand the physical, social, and psychological effects of drug experimentation and use.

Station Two: The Pharmacy (Led by Law Enforcement)

The scene begins with a presentation by officers focusing on illegal drugs in our community. After the initial presentation students are given the opportunity to walk by a drug display. While observing the different displays of drugs, a pre-selected student takes a bag of "dope" and places it in their pocket. A local law enforcement officer witnesses the act and places the student under arrest for possession of illegal drugs.

Station Three: Juvenile Hall (El Dorado County Probation)

Students watch as a probation officer fingerprints, photographs, and books their fellow classmate. The probation officer then places the designated student into a jail cell. Juvenile hall officers then present to the audience what it is like to reside in juvenile hall.

Station Four: The Court Room (El Dorado County Superior Court, Public Defender, and District Attorney)

The student appears in court with a public defender before a judge and a prosecutor. The judge explains how the legal system deals with the possession of drugs.

Station Five: Drug Counseling (Tahoe Youth & Family Services)

A Substance Abuse Prevention Counselor demonstrates an assessment with classmates observing. The audience then receives a presentation with information on chemical addiction and the risks involved when individuals make a choice of using.

Station Six: The Party (Law Enforcement STHS Friday Night Live students who attended the Drug Store Project when they were in 6th grade, and Fire Dept. Medical Personnel)

The student is faced with the choice of whether to stay clean or to use drugs again. The student chooses to continue to use drugs and attends a party. While at the party, the student collapses on the floor from an apparent drug overdose. Police Officers and medical teams arrive on the scene, perform CPR, and transport the student by gurney.

Station Seven: The Emergency Room (Barton Health, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, So. Lake Tahoe Fire Department, acting "Grieving parents")

Once the student enters the emergency room, actual physicians and nurses attempt to revive the individual without success and the child dies. Adult actors who play "grieving parents" are called into the emergency room where the doctor informs the parents that their son/daughter has just died. We want the youth to understand how the choices they make effect all of those who love and care about them.

Station Eight: The Funeral (Kindred Hospice and Nevada Funeral Services)

A mock funeral is conducted by pastor and mortuary personnel. The "grieving parents" are asked to share the memories they had of their deceased child. Students are then given the opportunity to observe their friend one last time. As they pass by and look inside the coffin, students expect to see

their classmate, but instead they see themselves in a mirror. The pastor then seats all the children down and discusses the sobering reminder not let this happen to them or those they love.

Station Nine: "My Story" (TYFS)

This is a powerful, moving story told by individuals in our community who want to share their experiences to help youth understand how choices they make effect not only them, but the many who love and depend on them.

Station Ten: Debriefing (CHP and EDC Mental Health)

Students are given the opportunity to share and discuss their experiences with a law enforcement officer and mental health professional.

Static Displays

The static display area is another component to the program. Agencies being represented include the Tahoe Douglas Bomb Squad, California Conservation Corp, CalStar, South Lake Tahoe Police Dept. K9, Tahoe Douglas / EDC Search & Rescue, and Barton's Marijuana and The Adolescent Brain.

Note: Throughout our 9 separate groups of students we disperse counselors in case any individual needs someone to talk to during the event.

The need for funding:

Securing annual funding is a reality. This program began and remains an event which is community supported. This "grass roots" effort is the reason it continues in lieu of agency budget cuts. Businesses that provide in-kind donations enable our program to be unlike others: Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel provides lodging for out of town military participants in the amount of \$1,400.00, Harrah's Lake Tahoe in the amount of \$10,000 provides the major food costs for students and volunteers the day of the event, Lake Tahoe Community College in the amount of \$12,000.00 for facility space and personnel, and Camelot Party Rentals provides us with a discount of \$200.00 towards our rental needs.. Individuals throughout the community and agency personnel all participate the day of the event as individual volunteers and with agency support. Last year **1,800 hours** of agency and volunteer hours were recorded on the event day alone.

The Need for this program and the commitment to the youth in our community.

Every other year, all schools are required to participate in a student self-reporting survey entitled "**California Healthy Kids Survey**". This survey asks students a multitude of questions about their health and drug use / abuse views. The survey is very comprehensive and continues to provide us with information regarding drug information amongst our youth. We as a community need to be concerned with what the students are telling us. Current research and self-reporting surveys show that drug experimentation occurs at age 9. You can access past survey information at this location: <http://chks.wested.org/reports/search>. In addition, the **Drug Store Project conducts a pre and post survey** on all students participating in the event. Last year's information can be located at www.makeschoolssafe.com along with pictures, a video, and items that another community can use to create their own program. In addition, Barton Health Care conducts the **PRC Community Health Needs Assessment**. The 2015 assessment identified the top three concerns for our local community: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Access to Healthcare. Preliminary 2018 findings are reflecting that these attributes continue to be at the forefront of needs. You can read the full report here.

Program Budget

Our day-long event will focus on choices an individual can make when it comes to drug use and abuse. Our day will also focus on the positive aspects of remaining drug free and achieving goals. This event

will be held at LTCC on April 2, 2019. Students will be rotated through all of the vignettes of the program and they will also be provided lunch in the site's cafeteria area.

Our projected budget is based on actual expenditures from previous years. Expenses cover the costs for 325 youth and 225 volunteers which make the program possible. As our program has evolved over the years, so too has our need to account for all expenses of the program.

Drug Store Project Budget 2019	Expected outlay of expenses	In-kind Donations	In-kind Supporter
Food: snack, water, lunch for 520	\$1,500.00	\$10,000.00	Harrah's Lake Tahoe Caesar's Foundation
*520 grocery totes to use as Community Bags which carry drug prevention information for parents.	\$900.00		
Lodging	0	\$1,400.00	Lake Tahoe Resort @ Heavenly
Facility @ LTCC	0	\$12,000.00	LTCC
Rental Equipment: Pipe & Drape	\$1,100.00		
Staff-Program Coordinator	\$10,000.00		
* TYFS Administration fee (6% of funds raised)	\$856.00		
Office Supplies/copying	\$300.00		
Postal Mailing/FedEx Shipping: Brochures from DC	\$400.00		
ConstantContact Subscription -email communication for project	\$275.00		
SurveyMonkey Subscription for survey use	\$275.00		
TYFS event Insurance fee	\$100.00		
Teacher Substitutes (Grieving Parent Actors/Party Scene)	\$200.00		
Drug Prevention Community Bag Materials	\$500.00		
Sponsor Appreciation packets (final report, collage photo, postage)	\$325.00		
CNG/NAS dinner supplies	\$200.00		
Counselor replacement t-shirts (15)	\$200.00		
Volunteers and agency personnel participation		Priceless!!!!	
	\$17,131.00	\$23,400.00	\$40,531.00

Not counting the in-kind donations provided by our businesses, the actual capital outlay for the program is \$17,131.00. The cost per pupil is about \$53.00, a small amount of money to spend on a very priceless element; our youth. This community-owned program is in the process of securing funds from service clubs, grant opportunities, private donations, and agencies that serve the south shore area.

We hope to hear from you about our program.

Lisa Huard
 Drug Store Project Coordinator
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