



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WAUKESHA COUNTY DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES COALITION
TO HOLD KICKOFF CELEBRATION EVENT**

WAUKESHA, Wis. – The Waukesha County Drug Free Communities Coalition is holding a kick-off event at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha on Thursday, May 21, at 4 p.m. The event, which will highlight the Coalition’s goals and successes of the coalition, as well as the Coalition’s recently acquired grant, is open to the greater Waukesha Community.

The Waukesha County UW-Extension recently received a \$125,000 Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant to develop a substance abuse prevention program geared toward youth in Waukesha County. The DFC program is a federal effort to reduce youth substance abuse in alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Waukesha County is one of four communities in Wisconsin who received the DFC grant last year.

“Underage drinking is clearly a problem in Wisconsin and Waukesha County certainly is not immune to these problems,” said Marcia Jante, Waukesha County DFC Director. “The work of the Drug Free Communities Coalition tackles this important issue, working to prevent alcohol and drug abuse and focusing on our most important asset – our youth.”

The event’s formal program will include remarks from City of Waukesha Mayor Larry Nelson, Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas, Drug Free Communities Federal Project Officer Olivia Propst as well as DFC program coordinators, Irene Secora and Ellen Shiflet, and Director Marcia Jante.

The coalition, which currently has over forty members, represents a number of partnering agencies including schools, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, media, parents, youth, state and local agencies and civic and volunteer groups. Community members with an interest in drug abuse prevention are urged to attend the event and join the coalition. Attendees are encouraged to stay after the formal program for refreshments and networking.

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