

# Decatur Township Drug Free Coalition NEWSLETTER

February 2024



## HELLO!

It's been a little while since our last newsletter and we have so much we are excited to share with you! This newsletter will cover new staff and board members, past/upcoming events, our youth coalition S.O.A.R, grant awards, and more!

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our next Community Coalition Meeting, Wednesday April 3rd at 1pm (details can be found on the Meetings page below). Come join us and get involved!

# Decatur Township Drug Free Coalition

# NEWSLETTER

## New Staff and Board Members



### NEW STAFF!

We are so excited to announce that Tina Quintana has joined our team as the part-time Education Trailer Coordinator. In this new role, Tina will be working with organizations in and around Marion County to schedule our education trailer at their events!



### NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Please help us welcome our three new board members, Vice President Kim Hollobaugh, Community Engagement Chair Amanda Neal, and Athletic Director Justin Dixson. We are very excited to to have them join us!

# Decatur Township Drug Free Coalition **NEWSLETTER**

## Opioid Settlement Community Grant Award



### OPIOID SETTLEMENT NEWS

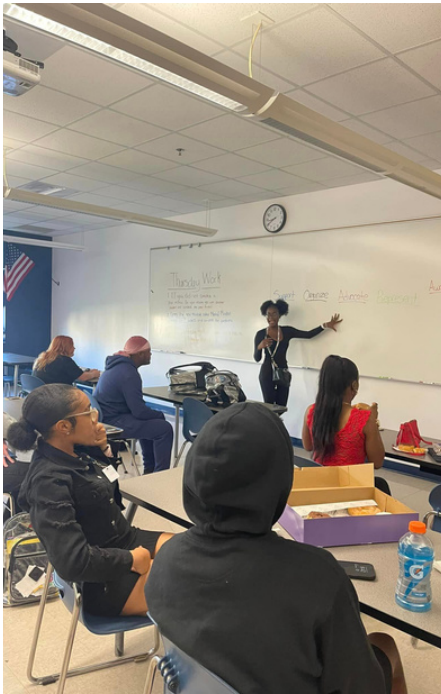
We have some exciting news to share with our community! Our coalition is one of 18 organizations who has received funding from this grant for projects focused on prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery for substance use and mental health disorders.

### CONTINUED...

Our coalition plans to use the funds we have been awarded to expand our “What You Don’t See” Education Trailer to neighborhoods and populations of focus within Marion County. We aim to reach as many parents and adults in Marion County as possible to educate them and increase their knowledge on substance use trends, enable them to identify drug paraphernalia, and encourage them to have meaningful, necessary conversations with the youth and others in their life on the deadly dangers of substance use.

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## S.O.A.R Youth Coalition



### WHAT IS S.O.A.R UP TO?

S.O.A.R has had a very busy year so far for the 23-24 school year. You can find our group around doing fundraisers, prevention awareness weeks, community clean ups and more! If you have a student interested in joining, please email: [jsandvold@decaturproud.org](mailto:jsandvold@decaturproud.org) for more details about meeting dates and times.

### CADCA MID-YEAR 2023

The coalition took 4 Decatur Central High School S.O.A.R students to the CADCA Mid-Year Conference in Dallas in July 2023. Students participated in the week long youth leadership track and made peer connections with other youth coalitions!



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## Education Trailer Updates/Events



### WHAT A BUSY YEAR!

We have had our trailer out at so many of our township events this year! We added the 4-H Fair, Community Day, IMPD Community Day, Run for Ali, DCHS Homecoming, and more! Thank you all for the continued support of the trailer and allowing us to bring awareness to our community!



### INTERESTED IN BOOKING THE TRAILER?

The trailer is available to book for your next event! You can reach out to our Education Trailer Coordinator, Tina Quintana at [decatureducationtrailer@gmail.com](mailto:decatureducationtrailer@gmail.com) or you can complete a request online at:

<https://www.drugfreedecatur.org/education-trailer>

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## 2023 Past Events



### COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

In April of 2023 we held our student led community clean up! We had over 150 students and over 30 volunteers to help clean up 250 bags of trash right here in our community! We are looking forward to the event again this April 22, 2024.

### COMMUNITY DAY

Our annual community day which takes place every July was a huge hit again! Even with a little rainy weather we still managed to have over 500 attendees and over 40 resource and small business vendors! We can't wait to see you on July 14, 2024!



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## 2023 Past Events Cont.



### RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week is such a great way to remind our students that drug free is the way to be! We held a door decorating contest again this year and we had exceptional participation from all of our schools in the district. Our winning doors earned pizza or donut parties for their classes!



### RUN FOR ALI

Each year in October we host a 5K Run for Ali to remember our Director, Kelly Ivey's niece, Ali, who passed away from substance use disorder. This event is also the largest fundraiser each year that our coalition hosts. We are looking forward to the 2024 Run for Ali 5K!

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## 2023 Past Events Cont.



### FIRST FALL FESTIVAL

This past October we hosted our very first fall festival and what a success it was! We had over 500 attendees to this completely free event. We will be hosting another one in October 2024 so be on the lookout for details on our social media!

### PANCAKES AND PAJAMAS

In December we hosted our first ever Pancakes and Pajamas fundraiser at Applebees in Camby! We have a great turn out for our first year and everyone got to enjoy a visit with Santa, decorate sugar cookies, get their pictures taken, and enjoyed breakfast in their P.J.s! It was a great, family-fun event!





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## CADCA Conferences



### CADCA MID-YEAR

In July Kelly and Jess took 4 of our high school youth coalition members to the CADCA Mid-Year Conference in Dallas, TX. The students attended a week long youth leadership track and had the opportunity to meet youth from all over the country. We look forward to CADCA Mid-Year 2024!

### CADCA LEADERSHIP FORUM

In January 2024 our board members and staff went to a week long leadership forum in Washington D.C. The team had the opportunity to train, meet with our local legislators, as well as network with other prevention coalitions from around the world. We are already looking forward to next year.

