



Reaching Out

Norristown Area Communities That Care for Youth

Keeping Youth Safe & Drug Free

Fall 2011



Spotlight on Community Leader: Jamison's Beverages

Jamison's Beverages, a family establishment owned and operated by Jack and Beth Jamison, is a leader in community efforts to keep our youth safe and alcohol free.

Jack and Beth routinely open their doors to the CTC Youth Sub-Committee to implement *Project Sticker Shock*, which educates adults on the penalties for providing alcohol to minors.

These students place small purple stickers on cases of beer that list the consequences for adults who buy alcohol for anyone under 21. These penalties include a fine from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for the first offense, and a fine up to \$2,500 and a year in jail for every subsequent offense.

The Jamison family have taken to heart the age old adage that "it takes a village" to raise healthy, happy and responsible children.

Who knew applying to college didn't have to be so overwhelming?!

By Taylor Hayes, BA, Prevention Outreach Specialist

Where do I begin? Can I afford it? Is college the right choice for me? You may be asking yourself these questions, but you will never know unless you try. Here are the first steps in the college application process:

First, pick two-to-four colleges you could see yourself attending. Remember, 90% of colleges have an application fee, which can range from \$25 and \$75 depending on the school.

Review the application for each college. Some colleges require a "personal statement." These may vary in length.

Once you have completed the applications, complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** form (www.fafsa.ed.gov). You will need your filed tax return (if you filed the previous year) and your parents' tax return. You will need to input numbers from your tax return into the FAFSA form. It will be very specific, so do not feel overwhelmed. At the end of the FAFSA form, it will ask you to check the colleges that you have applied to. If later you have decided to add a college, you may make that change on the form at that time. This form should be completed by March 1st. Yes, you can complete it at a later date, but you should submit it by that date to assure yourself the maximum amount of funding for your college career.

The U.S. Department of Education determines how much aid you will receive based on the information you supplied on your FAFSA form. It will also notify the colleges that you have applied to.

You may also apply for scholarships and grants. If you go to the college's website and go under the financial aid section, it will have many different grants and scholarships that you may apply to for further assistance.

The colleges/universities will send you a financial aid package. It will include any scholarships and grants that you may have received.

Once you have received all the different packages, you can make a decision as to where you would like to attend. It is important to notify the colleges/universities as soon as possible.

The **National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators** is a resourceful website (www.nasfaa.org) for students and parents who may have questions or concerns about this process.

RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS

By Kenneth A. Fennal, Program Director, Greater Norristown Police Athletic League

Most adults define success as the desired outcome of something attempted, whether it is wealth, power or popularity. In general, society values money over wealth, titles over achievements, and popularity over respect. The media plays a large role in how young people define success. Some young people evaluate their status based upon attaining materialist goods and social status. Others perceive it as visibility among their peers and those that guide and/or direct their lives. The reality is, success should and must be self-determined on an individual basis in accordance with personal needs, expectations and responsibilities.

WHO CAN HELP?

Family members, educational entities and community partners are supportive pillars in determining whether a youth is successful and to what degree of success is achieved. Confidence, motivation, reinforcement and support are necessary for success, each one having a different effect on youth. Family can keep youth within certain boundaries, while educational entities provide the learning blocks for success. Community partners provide the educational enhancement and/or social balance to family and educational arenas.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE OUT THERE?

There are many positive community partners throughout the greater Norristown community. They consist of, but are not limited to, churches, community services, family centers and athletic institutions. Many of them have great inter-agency relationships, collectively providing programs that promote success for youth, parents and families as a whole.

A resource to find a particular program or service that might benefit your family is the Interagency Council of Norristown (www.icnconnections.org).

WHAT IS BACK TALK?

One program that has proven itself to be a valuable resource for success is Back Talk, a youth group that is co-sponsored by Norristown Area Communities That Care For Youth (CTC) and the Great Norristown Police Athletic League (GNPAL). Back Talk presents anti-alcohol and anti-drug activities to youth from diverse backgrounds. It introduces and creates a youth friendly environment that is enhanced by interpersonal relationships that allow youth to feel comfortable, safe and engaged. The staff is regularly challenging young minds, encouraging positive relationships, expanding confidence and sharpening presentation skills, which in turn, breeds success. This program flourishes on discussions related to alcohol, drugs, dating, etiquette, clothing attire, and mannerisms, as well as morals, values and ethics, which are the perfect foundation for continued success.

Back Talk has hosted the following activities and events:

Car Wash, Easter Egg Hunt, DUI Simulator, Project Sticker Shock, and Trips.

ACTIVITIES

Many of these activities take place at GNPAL. Because of this collaboration, many of the participating youth engage in various other activities and programs that GNPAL has to offer. These programs include but are not limited to:

Boxing:	Tuesday-Thursday, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Chess:	Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.
Community Garden:	Monday-Friday, 3-6 p.m.
Dream Club:	Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Mexican Folklore Dance:	Mondays & Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.
Tae Kwon Do:	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Check for skill level class
Track:	March-August Check with GNPAL Program Director for specifics
Tutoring:	Monday-Thursday, 3-5:30 p.m.



COME JOIN OUR BACK TALK YOUTH GROUP!

Back Talk is just one of many programs in and around Norristown that is focused on the success of youth. The collaboration between CTC and GNPAL is one of many, but there is a reason why Back Talk is successful. It is because the program facilitators go beyond the call of duty to provide and interact with the participating youth. There is a mutual respect that is created based upon an interpersonal relationship. The youth are looking for a comfortable, safe place.

The growth of the Back Talk youth is phenomenal. When they started, they were like “seeds”—shy, introverted and uncomfortable. Now they are bright, blossoming flowers, confident, articulate and strong. They are vivid illustrations of success, all worth the effort. We are proud of their achievements and their successes. Success is not measured by material gains, but by the achievements that are attained over time.

If you would like more information on how you can join Back Talk, contact Taylor Hayes at 610-630-2111 ext. 266 or thayes@fsmontco.org.

Who can find the time to keep up with their kids lives?

www.FindYour25thHour.org



KEEPING YOUTH
SAFE
&
DRUG FREE

Communities That Care
3125 Ridge Pike
Norristown, PA 19403
610-630-2111 ext. 236
info@norristownctc.org
www.NorristownCTC.org

Communities That Care (CTC) is a risk-focused approach to reducing adolescent problem behaviors through community mobilization and planning. Local citizens and community leaders work together to identify the risk factors that increase the likelihood of problem behaviors developing, and enhance the protective factors that can shield youngsters from problems. The risk and protective factors are used to implement a comprehensive plan to step ahead of the problems with far-reaching and long-lasting solutions.

If you are planning to attend **Montgomery County Community College (MCCC)**, below are times and dates of workshops to assist you with the financial aid process. Please bring the following information to the workshop:

- Your Social Security Number and your parents' Social Security Numbers (if dependent)
- Your Alien Registration Number if you are an eligible non-citizen
- Your driver's license number
- 2010 federal tax returns (including W-2) for yourself and your parents (if dependent)
- Information on savings, investments, and business and farm assets for yourself and your parents (if dependent)
- Your FAFSA Personal Identification Number

For more information, contact the MCCC Financial Aid Office at 215-641-6566 or financialaid@mc3.edu.

DATE	CAMPUS	TIME	LOCATION
November 16, 2011	Central Campus	12:15 p.m.	Parkhouse 310
November 16, 2011	West Campus	12:15 p.m.	South Hall 250
November 16, 2011	Central Campus	5:30 p.m.	Parkhouse 310
November 16, 2011	West Campus	5:30 p.m.	Student Success Center