

# Communities That Care of Lorain County

## CTC is online: check us out! [www.ctcloraincounty.org](http://www.ctcloraincounty.org)

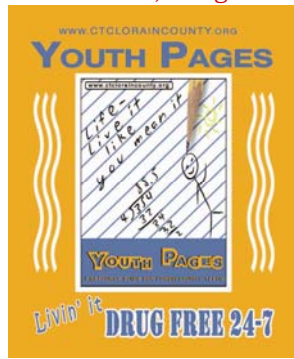
Lorain County is now live and online.

The website contains information about upcoming Coalition and partner activities.

And the newly designed Youth Pages are now online; youth told us they wanted a virtual document, and so, for the first time they are online. (Turn up your speaker volume and you'll hear the pages turning!)

Last spring, we partnered with Lorain County JVS's Graphics & Design Class who participated in a cover contest.

Emerald Harrington, Lorain County JVS Class 2010, designed



**Youth Pages are live and online at:**  
[www.ctcloraincounty.org](http://www.ctcloraincounty.org)  
agencies.

Anyone wanting a Youth Pages poster or bookmarks can contact us at 440.366.1106 ext. 16. Let us know what you think—we're

tracking the information and will use it in future planning.

If you have information you'd like to post, send to Elaine Georgas: [georgas@lorainadas.org](mailto:georgas@lorainadas.org)

**Volume 1, Issue 1  
Newsletter Date**

## Communities That Care



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## Waiting for News on Parents Who Host (PWH) Grant

The Coalition has applied for a second level grant for "Parents Who Host Lose the Most: don't be a party to teenage drinking."

The coalition will work with the Lorain County



Prevention Connection (LCPC) on the campaign, distributing literature and with our Task Force (see page 3) for law enforcement activities. Stay tuned to see if we get the grant.

## The Teen Brain: (not quite) So Mysterious

If you've ever wondered why teens act (and react) the way they do, it's because their brains take longer to develop.

Dr. Andrew Garner, a University Hospitals pediatrician, demystified the teen brain at a September 16 training event, "The Adolescent Brain: Still Under Construction."

Teen brains mature at different rates and times, so some brain functions might be stronger or go "on line" sooner than others, he told a crowd of over 200 parents, educators and agency partner members.

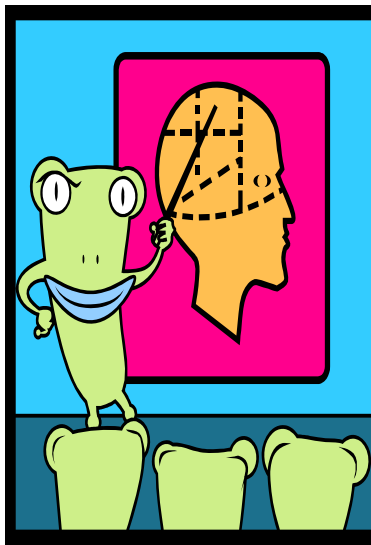
Adolescents sometimes seem out of balance with their behavior because some parts of the brain that put the brakes on impulsivity don't fully mature until the mid-20s.

The youthful years are the best time for skill-building activities like learning new languages, music or sports.

Dr. Garner's talk received positive reviews (over 90%) from those

His talk will soon be posted on the coalition website and can be used as a video for training, or educational purposes.

Don't forget to print out the accompanying PowerPoint presentation, too. Check it out at: [www.ctcloraincounty.org](http://www.ctcloraincounty.org)



## Remember to PARENT

Dr. Andrew Garner suggests this simple acronym for sound ideas in parenting teens:

- **Promote** activities that use new skills: language, music, sports
- **Assist** with challenges requiring planning and foresight
- **Reinforce** seeking advice from trusted adults
- **Educate** about risk-taking and negative consequences
- **Never** underestimate the effects of substance abuse on the developing brain
- **Tolerate** the OOPS! Behaviors—everyday mistakes happen and natural consequences are part of learning; protect youth from big mistakes:

## Hot Time in the Cold City: Zero Proof Mix-Off December 3

Come sample the coalition's alcohol-free entry Thursday, Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m. at the 2009 Zero Proof Mix-Off at Spitzer Conference Center, 1005 N. Abbe Rd. (Snow Date is Friday, Dec. 4)

Our winning entry will be whipped up by Coalition members from Lorain Southview and Placement Program. (Can you hear the blenders whirling?)

Bring the family to this great, free event. Recipe books will be given out and include Remember vote for your favorite CTC Coalition!



## Survey Says... 2009 Youth Survey Results Are In!

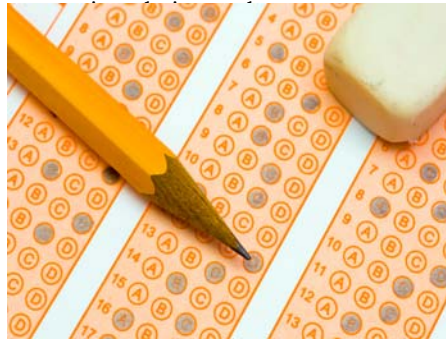
Over 10,000 Lorain County youth were surveyed in September.

Youth in grades 6,8,10 and 12 in all 14 public school districts answered questions about what it's like to grow up in Lorain County in 2009.

Coalition members are now taking results out to the individual districts and providing technical support.. Each district is also receiving a report comparing the 2009 data to 2006.

The coalition is also partnering

closely with three districts this year



Listening Sessions held last spring where small groups of residents told us their thoughts on underage substance abuse.

All that information will help us map our Next Steps. Hope to see you there.

## STOP (and) Meet Our New Task Force

Changing the way we think about alcohol and underage consumption is the focus of the coalition's new Task Force.

The coalition was awarded a STOP Grant, earlier this fall. The name stands for: The Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking—or STOP.

Anne Dury is the Task Force Coordinator; she is LISW, who once served as the coalition coordinator.

The Task Force's first meeting was held November 18 and included law enforcement, agency members who want to serve in a different capacity—as parents and caring community members.

The Task Force will work on holding shoulder taps in the area—to determine whether or not stores that sell alcohol are accurately carding minors. This may be followed by some educational training for beverage servers. Interested in taking part in the Task Force, contact Elaine Georgas directly at 440.282.9920 or [georgas@lorainadas.org](mailto:georgas@lorainadas.org) or Anne

## Our Wish List... Or (We've been REALLY Good this year)...

Dear Guy or Gal in the red suit:

We're an active coalition and need help. We've been extra good this year (we completed our Year One Drug-Free Federal Grant, attended three trainings and also snagged a grant for a Task Force (see above).

But we need people with the

following skills:

- Web design
- Newsletter assistance
- Media types who can help us craft Public Service Announcements for our new Task Force.

Contact:: Catherine Gabe:



## Communities That Care of Lorain County

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*We're online!*

[www.ctcloraincounty.org](http://www.ctcloraincounty.org)

### Watch for our Winter 2010 Community Meeting!



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**Communities That Care of Lorain County is a countywide Drug-Free Coalition working to:**

- **Strengthen community collaborations**
- **Reduce underage substance abuse**

*Our Mission:*

*Communities That Care of Lorain County is a strong partnership within the community to help our youth face the many challenges ahead of them, including substance abuse.*

**For further information contact:**

**Catherine Gabe, coordinator;**

**440.366.1106 ext. 16 or [cgabe@lorainadas.org](mailto:cgabe@lorainadas.org)**

## Welcoming Our Newest Members

Our coalition is growing. In the past two months we have welcomed several new members we'd like to introduce you to.

- **Jennifer Higgins-Anderson**, an Avon Lake parent, this mother of four wants to work with women and youth and is interested in social media networking.
- **Cathleen Fairbanks**, is a caseworker in the Independent Living Program with Lorain County Children Services; she lives in Elyria and is the mother of two teens.
- **Shantae Jackson**, is a nutritional services coordinator

at Community Health Patners. She is actively involved in eliminating violence with the Lorain County Organizing Committee. She lives in Lorain, has two children and a rescue cat named Scout.

- **Chad Earl**, works with the Boys To Men Ministry, a character education program. He lives in Lorain and is the father of 3; including his daughter, Rashay, a Southview High School senior who is a coalition member and showing her dad the ropes.
- **Nicole Miller**, is an Amherst parent advocate. A mother of two, she links parents of special needs children to resources.

- **Jay Nimene**, with Applewood Centers is pursuing a masters degree in social work; he is an elder with Faith Ministries Christian Center, lives in Lorain and has two children.
- **Yolanda Wicks** lives in Lorain and is a mother of two sons; she is interested in special needs education and services.

We still need representatives in:

**Media, Business, Faith-Based and Civic/Volunteer Group** Know someone who **wants to be involved: Have them contact**