

2nd Annual Safe and Sober Family Night: Another Success!

The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District hosted its **2nd Annual Safe and Sober Family Night on Monday, September 20, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the West Allis Nathan Hale High School Auditorium.** Working in collaboration, the West Allis Police Department, the West Allis West Milwaukee School District, and the West Allis-West Milwaukee Community Coalition presented information to parents and students on making positive choices. Guest speakers informed families about the dangers of drinking and driving, current trends in teenage substance use, and several programs which hope to keep our students safe. This program has become an annual event hosted by West Allis Central and Nathan Hale High Schools in alternating years. Next fall West Allis Central High School will host the event.

Approximately 350 people were in attendance, which was nearly twice as many as last spring's event. Of those, 200 were parents, and 150 were students from both Central and Nathan Hale High Schools. The event was meant to be a proactive intervention to promote safe behaviors during the upcoming high school homecomings, winter formals, proms, and graduation celebrations. West Allis Central's homecoming is Saturday, October 2nd, and Nathan Hale's homecoming is Saturday, October 16th. Speakers at the event included a mother who lost her son to a drunk driver; a recovering offender; Corporal Rod Nelson, and Tammy Molter, WAWM Community Coalition Coordinator. The event concluded with parents and their daughter/son signing a family pledge to one another. Over 100 pledges were signed.

Students who attended the planning night with their parents/guardians received a \$10 voucher, which can be used toward one event (homecoming, winter formal, or prom). Over \$350 in gift certificates and prizes were donated by local businesses. Prizes were given away at the end of the program, which included discounts at local hair/nail/tanning salons, and florists. We hope the event increased awareness and help parents have those crucial conversations with their daughter/son to make positive life choices. Future events will include assemblies at each high school in the winter, and a parents-only event in the spring.