

Enterprise Article 03/12/2013

The Swanton Area Community Coalition recently held an evening of strategic planning. It was a complete analysis of how the coalition started, gathered information, established goals, and realized those achievements. The Swanton Area Community Coalition is one of only two such groups in Fulton County, the other being in Wauseon. The coalition is funded by a Federal Grant that needs to be reapplied for every five years. This is Swanton's year to reapply. In order to do so, a plan for the next five years was required, so Board members and a few community figures met to establish such.

Initially, the coalition focused on high school students. They met regularly for safe, alcohol and drug free events, which were held outside of school and provided a forum for free discussion of teenage issues such as the influences of drugs and alcohol and bullying. After the high school group was running, a junior high group was started and they number over 30 kids now. Adorn Grabarczyk is the community liason and Ashley Remer Stambaugh is the youth leader. Both groups continue to grow, meet, and provide extended programming geared toward educational, fun, and safe youth events and retreats both inside and outside of school. Future programming will continue to concentrate on a drug and alcohol free life style, with more concentration on prescription drugs, bath salts, cocaine and heroin addictions.

The Swanton Police department has become a valued partner in the coalition's work. They have recently installed a permanent, locked prescription drug drop off box just inside the entrance to the police department on Chestnut St. The drop off box provides safe disposal of outdated, leftover, or no longer necessary prescription drugs for everyone's use and it is emptied every day. The coalition also sponsors quarterly drug drop offs at their location at 95 N. Main St. These drop off days are always on Saturdays and are advertised at Rite Aid Pharmacy and in this newspaper.

For everyone who attended and supported the fourth annual Fulton County Chapter of the American Red Cross Wine Tasting Fundraiser a week of ago, I thank you. We raised over \$7000.00. It is a fun evening and I hope you will attend again next year, the first Saturday in March, which is March 1, 2014. Plan on it now!