The Drug Store Project

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The Drug Store Project: A Community Drug Prevention Effort

What is it?
A day-long event in which students are taken through a series of vignettes demonstrating possible consequences if they choose to use drugs or participate in any destructive behavior.

Who is involved on a YEARLY basis?
• 45+ Organizations (Agencies, Service Clubs, and Businesses)
• 225 Agency personnel and community volunteers.
• 325 sixth-grade youth of STMS and Zephyr Cove Elementary

What is the message to our Youth?
Choices, what are yours?
What do youth remember most?

- Events and experiences
  - Things they can see, taste, feel, and hear.

- We know this event is meaningful because our youth tell us so.
  - Student Post Survey Information
  - High School youth who now are The Party Scene
  - College age youth who share the information and participate as volunteers.
There are three kinds of kids

- Those like me who just were never interested.
- Those who might be interested but are sitting on the fence to get involved or not.
- Those who will do things no matter what is placed before them.

While we aim for all kids, it’s those “fence sitters” who we hope to connect with. If we convince just ONE, then we’ve done a great deal.
What does it look like?

Students arrive at LTCC.

The Joint Task Force Domestic Support – Counter Drug (California National Guard), Navy Air Station Fallon, and group volunteers set the tone and review the expectations for the day.

Groups rotate to all vignettes systematically throughout the day.

Each vignette is 11 minutes in length.
Students are provided with an overview of the drugs identified as “Gateway Drugs” (tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and e-cigarettes). The emphasis of this vignette is to provide all students with the foundation of information needed to understand the physical, social, and psychological effects of drug use.
Students begin with a presentation by law enforcement about illegal drugs in our community. After the presentation students are given the opportunity to walk by a drug display. While observing the different displays of drugs, a pre-selected student takes a bag of “drugs” and places it in their pocket. A law enforcement officer witnesses the act and places the student under arrest for possession of illegal drugs.
Station 3: Juvenile Hall

Provided by EDC Juvenile Treatment Center

Students watch as a probation officer fingerprints, photographs, and books their fellow classmate.

Juvenile hall officers then present to the students the process in juvenile hall.
The student appears in court with a public defender before a judge and a prosecutor. The judge explains how the legal system deals with those found guilty of possession of drugs and places the minor on probation and mandates the student into drug counseling.
Station 5: Drug Counseling

Provided by TYFS

Substance Abuse Prevention Counselors from local agencies administer a mock chemical assessment while their fellow classmates are observing.

The audience then receives a presentation with information on chemical addiction and the risks involved when they make their choice of whether to use or not.
The student chooses to continue to use drugs and attends a party.

While at the party, the student collapses on the floor from an apparent drug overdose.

Police Officers and EMTs arrive on the scene, perform CPR, and transport the student to the emergency room.
Once the student enters the emergency room, actual physicians and nurses attempt to revive the victim without success and the victim dies.

Actors play “grieving parents” and are called into the emergency room where the doctor informs the parents that their son / daughter just died.

Our goal is that our youth recognize that the decisions they make, effect all of those that love them.
Station 8: The Funeral

Provided by Kindred Hospice and McFarlane Mortuary

A mock funeral is conducted by a minister and mortuary personnel. The “grieving parents” are asked to share the memories they had of their deceased child.

Students are then given the opportunity to observe their friend one last time. As they pass by and look inside the coffin, students expect to see their classmate, but instead they see themselves in a mirror. The sobering reminder is to not let this happen to you or those you love.
Station 9: My Story

*Provided by a Community Parent*

This is a powerful, moving story told by one of our own in the Community of Lake Tahoe. We have so many parents who have lost their child due to the choice their loved one made. These individuals want our youth to consider all of their family and friends when making decisions about drug experimentation and use and all destructive behavior as well.
Station 10: Debrief

Provided by CHP and EDC Mental Health

Students are given the opportunity to share and discuss their experiences with a law enforcement officer and mental health professional.

This is one of two debrief opportunities our youth have with professionals. A second gathering is conducted in each classroom the following week.
In addition....

- Additional support vignettes are provided by Douglas County Fire Protection District’s Bomb Squad, El Dorado County Sheriff’s Search & Rescue/ Douglas County’s Search & Rescue, CALSTAR, SLTPD/EDSO K9 Units, Barton Hospital and Vaping, and Barton Hospital’s Marijuana and the Adolescent Brain.

- Harrah’s generously supports lunch and snacks for all 550 participants, and we will again have the assistance of their Harrah’s HERO volunteers.

- Students participate in a pre and post–event surveys for data gathering purposes and program improvement.

- Professional counselors participate in our event and can be of help to any child or adult if necessary.

- TYFS Counselor visits every classroom as a follow up to the event the following week for another debrief session. Students get their questions answered and they become more familiar with the TYFS agency.
What is needed?

- Continued financial support for the program.
- Volunteers.
An ounce of prevention IS worth a pound of cure. Agencies participating this past year.