

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Partnership for Change (YPC) Comes Together to Host a Community Briefing on Underage Drinking

Two Days. 49 States. 350+ Briefings. One Message: Take It Back!

Austin, Texas- February 14, 2008– On **Wednesday, March 5th, 2008**, YouthLaunch's Youth Partnership for Change will sponsor a TAKE IT BACK™ *Community Briefing*, to be held at 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Goodwill, 1015 Norwood Park Blvd, Austin, Texas 78753 Suite 1124.

The TAKE IT BACK Movement is driven by facts like these:

- Each day, more than 5,400 kids in the United States under age 16 take their first drink.¹
- Each year, more than 97,000 students between the ages of 18 to 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape.²
- In the US alone, alcohol kills more kids than all illegal drugs combined.³

For the first time, more than 350 youth groups from 49 states will simultaneously hold youth-led *Community Briefings* to call attention to alcohol as the single most important health issue facing young people today. At the *Briefing*, we will focus on the following alcohol issues that were found while conducting research in our own community:

- Underage drinking costs the state of Texas over **\$5.5 Billion** a year.
- **65.9 percent** of Texas secondary students reporting that they had used alcohol at some point in their life.
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According to findings from the 2005 Austin Independent School District Student Substance Abuse Survey of Austin, Texas high school students, 35 % reported using alcohol within the last month, 14% thought alcohol was not dangerous to kids their age, 6% thought it was not dangerous at all, and 8% did not know. AISD high school students in 2005, 18% reported attending class while "high" "stoned" or "drunk".

The goal of the briefing is to increase knowledge on the issue of underage alcohol use in the Austin area and to also provide tangible ideas to inspire others to make a difference in the Austin area community. Please plan to attend this important *Community Briefing*. To arrange a pre- or post-event interview with our panelists and other representatives from our group, please contact

Myra Constable, YPC Program Coordinator.

1 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/latest.htm>

2 Hingson et. al., 2005, <http://www.utakeitback.org/Issue/Statistics/index.html>

3 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 2003.