

For Immediate Release

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## **YouthLaunch hosts Youth Summit on Prevention of Underage Alcohol Use**

**Austin, Texas – May 18, 2007**

In an attempt to educate teens about the dangers of underage alcohol use, YouthLaunch Youth Partnership for Change program is inviting 100 Austin area teens to a one - day youth summit to discuss underage alcohol issues and come up with tangible ways to implement positive change in their own schools and communities. Youth Partnership for Change Youth Summit, is an educational and leadership development conference that will focus on “*Youth Leading the Fight to Prevent Underage Drinking*” on **Tuesday, June 19, 2007 from 8:30-3:30, at St. Edward’s University.**

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”.

This **FREE** one-day event is open to students in grades 9-12. Adam Neal, also known as “DJ Saul Paul” will deliver the closing keynote address and he will also present his documentary entitled, “Tower to Tower”. “Tower to Tower”, paints a textured picture of the “hood” in which Neal grew up that was rich with pathos and struggle. The 35-minute long film is not a typical documentary, but more in the likeness of an MTV reality show.

The summit will include an award winning MADD Multimedia presentation and it will also include breakout sessions with topics such as alcohol education, DWI, personal stories, media and youth activism. Summit participants will be *encouraged* to go back and implement a positive change in their schools and communities, drawing on information and skills they learn during the day. Participants are *encouraged* to work in teams within their schools and identify a teacher or faculty advisor.

The youth summit will bring youth together from the community with similar challenges and pressures. The goal is for participants to learn the consequences of underage alcohol use, gain leadership and advocacy skills, and to take home tangible ideas to make a difference in their communities. For more information or to register [www.youthlaunch.org](http://www.youthlaunch.org), or call or email Myra McRoy Constable, YPC Program Coordinator at 512-342-0424 or email [mconstable@youthlaunch.org](mailto:mconstable@youthlaunch.org).