

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **YouthLaunch hosts an information lunch featuring Youth Partnership for Change, a program designed to empower young people to help prevent underage alcohol use.**

Austin, Texas- February 11, 2009– On **Thursday, February 12th, 2009**, YouthLaunch will sponsor Lunch with YouthLaunch *featuring the Youth Partnership for Change (YPC) program. The event will be held from 11:30 to 1:00*, at YouthLaunch located at 7756 Northcross Drive, Suite 203. YPC's youth community educators will give a brief alcohol prevention presentation that they present in schools and community organizations in the Austin area.

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

**Youth Partnership for Change is an alcohol prevention education program that empowers young people to raise awareness in the Austin area community about the number one drug of choice for young people in Texas— alcohol. Young people serve as Community Educators, sharing their knowledge through exciting community outreach presentations to help peers, parents, and community members understand the real dangers and consequences of underage alcohol use. Community Educators have been trained with the latest information and resources on the effects of alcohol on the adolescent brain, the overall mental and physical effects to the body, and the underage alcohol drinking laws in Texas.**

For additional information, please contact **Myra Constable, YPC Program Coordinator**.

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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.