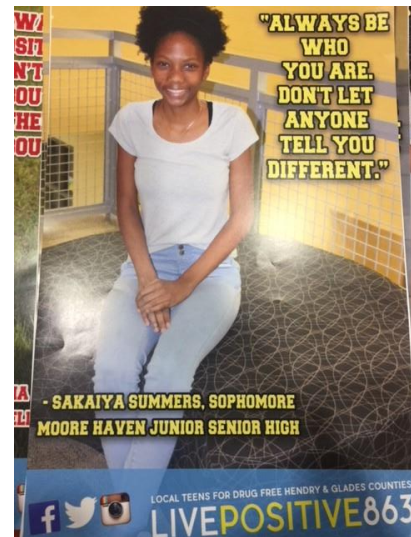




Annual Report Summary 17-18

Drug Free Hendry County (DFHC) is dedicated to empowering youth and adults to reject harmful substances by increasing education, motivation, collaboration, and awareness to create a safe and healthy community. DFHC utilizes community collaboration with agencies, businesses, organizations, and individuals to continue to make a difference in improving the health of our community.

Throughout the year, Drug Free Hendry has had numerous successes, projects, and community events. DFHC continues to run its social norms initiative, Live Positive 863. Live Positive 863 encourages our youth to live a positive lifestyle by making positive choices to fill their lives with positive school activities, friends, and hobbies. At DFHC, we believe that supporting youth and positive lifestyles will help to prevent them from making bad choices like using drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. We feature our nominated Live Positive 863 students on posters in Hendry and Glades County Schools, social media, and on our website. This program allows nominated students to mentor their peers and transform the perception to make others realize that youth are not using drugs and alcohol. Nominated students make a commitment to live drug free, alcohol free, and tobacco free. The youth and adults within the community support this campaign and speak very highly about it. This year students were nominated from Clewiston High School, LaBelle Highschool, and Moore Haven Junior Senior High School. 2 students from each school are chosen every 3 months.



For the eighth consecutive year, Drug Free Hendry County Coalition has hosted Operation Medicine Cabinet. To make this event possible, we hold medication drop off locations at K&M Drugs in both LaBelle and Clewiston. This event is made possible with the support of K&M Drugs as well as the Hendry County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's provide security and safe transportation and incineration of the drugs collected. This year we broke our

previous records and collected a total of 417 pounds of medication. By collecting medication, we are preventing the medicine from getting into the wrong hands. Detera Bags were also distributed to help the destroying of medications year-round, in addition to the permanent medication drop off locations in Hendry County.



Drug Free Hendry held their annual Drug Free Hendry County Talent Festival at Clewiston's Sugar Festival. The talent fest was held on Friday night as a part of Sugar Festival's Friday Fest. The talent festival serves as an opportunity to promote our youth in doing things that they love, rather than taking part in the use of drugs and alcohol. Auditions for this final talent show were held at Clewiston High School, LaBelle High School, and Moore Haven Highschool. The top three performers from each audition moved on to compete in Friday Fest at the Clewiston Sugar Festival. This year, our first-place group was a trio from Clewiston High School. Second place was a piano player from LaBelle, and a tie for third place of a drummer and a singer both from Moore Haven. All participants did a wonderful job and proved to their peers and the community that they are

living positive. Drug Free Hendry continues to be very proud of our youth and their decision to stay drug free.

Drug Free Hendry County hosted Jeff Becker, a motivational speaker, to LaBelle High School and Clewiston High School. Becker spoke to students about how to be *unstoppable* and how that is only possible if you make positive choices and remain drug free. Becker used his personal experiences and stories to explain to youth that to be the best version of yourself you must make positive choices. Becker explains to youth that youth from LaBelle and Clewiston have the resources needed to be truly unstoppable. The youth expressed that they truly enjoyed Jeff's presentation and





feel that they actually *want* to be unstoppable and that they have every reason to believe in themselves, that they don't need to resort to drugs, alcohol, and other bad decisions. Becker created a parent's video that was posted on social media. The parents video explained that they should be a vital component in their

child's life, and encourage them to make positive decisions.

Drug Free Hendry has been serving the community with source of information sharing and discussions related to emerging and ongoing issues related to substance abuse prevention among youth. We have been going out into the community to encourage the citizens of Hendry County to attend our monthly meetings and to help encourage youth to live a healthy lifestyle without any drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. We are encouraging them to participate in the meetings to have their voices heard and how we can strategize to have Hendry County Drug Free. Drug Free Hendry also participates in many outreaches in collaborations with our coalition partners to keep our presence in the community. Drug Free Hendry County posts on their social media on all emerging and ongoing issues related to substance abuse prevention and youth and how to encourage parents to talk to their teens. In addition, Drug Free Hendry invites guest speakers to talk about these issues in our community at our coalition meetings. We plan to continue these efforts and tactics in years to come.