



A Day of Prevention Workshops featuring Community Champion Awards

BHcare's Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Council (VSAAC) hosted A Piece of the Prevention Puzzle Workshop on October 1, 2014 at Grassy Hill Lodge in Derby. A Piece of the Prevention Puzzle is a prevention workshop dedicated to providing members of the Lower Naugatuck Valley and Greater New Haven communities with the resources and tools to help address some of today's most critical issues affecting our youth.

The workshop focused on internet safety and the legalization of marijuana. Guest speakers included Scott Driscoll, Alicia Farrell, Ph.D. and Yifrah Kaminer, MD, MBA.

The workshop also featured VSAAC's Community Champion Awards. The awards are given to those in the community who take action and effect change in the field of substance abuse prevention and/or intervention activities. The awards spotlight and applaud the work that is being done to help prevent substance abuse on the grass-roots, community level - work that is absolutely critical to VSAAC's efforts to keep our kids safe from alcohol, tobacco, drug use, suicide, risky behaviors, and promote good mental health in the Lower Naugatuck Valley, Greater New Haven and surrounding communities.

This year's Community Champions include Officer Mike Barry, Ansonia Police Department; Lt. Ken Cain, CT State Police Statewide Narcotics Task Force; Lt. Julie Johnson, New Haven Police Department; Wayne Kowal, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Connecticut State Police, Statewide Narcotics Task Force Training Program Coordinator; Joni Nordstrom, parent/community volunteer, Orange Drug Alcohol Action Committee; Sally Schwaller, Shelton Community Alert Program/Volunteer; and Carla Scinto, Adult Probation Officer II/Milford Prevention Council.