Brave and Bold FAQs

Q. What is Brave and Bold?

A. Brave and Bold is a community coalition that evolved in the wake of the May, 2011 DUI crash in Olney, which involved five students with ties to Magruder HS and killed three of them. Our aim is help parents help their tweens/teens/college students make safe, legal and responsible choices regarding alcohol and other drugs.

Q. Is Brave and Bold part of 21 Reasons/Every 15 Minutes? (or vice-versa?)

A. Brave and Bold and Every 15 Minutes share a common goal of empowering students to drive responsibly, without alcohol or texting. While Every 15 Minutes focuses on avoiding alcohol and texting while driving, Brave and Bold supplements this message by addressing inherent risks and consequences of underage substance abuse that do not involve getting in a car (for example, alcohol poisoning – which can be fatal or cause permanent brain damage – rape, sexually transmitted diseases, harmful effects to the developing adolescent brain, and sometimes fatal injuries from impaired thought processes – such as falling off a balcony or walking into a busy street).

We also raise awareness that there are legal risks and consequences for adult hosts and minors who violate the legal drinking age (21 years old) law.

The 21 Reasons campaign bridges Brave and Bold and Every 15 Minutes. It was added to the 2013 Every 15 Minutes event to make clear that our message is that there is no justification for underage drinking or other substance abuse and that choosing to engage in this behavior or condoning it is fraught with preventable risks to the well-being of our students and others who might also be impacted by this choice. 21 Reasons was inspired by Magruder HS parent Mrs. Beatrice Hanson and is summarized in this superlative video by Magruder HS graduate Ryan Anderson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZO-_BgjvUfY>.

Q. How does Brave and Bold do that?

A. We hold parent forums each semester addressing different aspects of substance abuse with a variety of speakers, including staff from Montgomery County Addictions Services, Montgomery County State’s Attorney’s Office, prevention specialists, and students. We also post notices on “MHSnews,” the Magruder HS parent listserv notices with parenting strategies on how to set age-appropriate limits for teens and how to support your favorite teenager(s) in making good choices, and maintain a facebook page with related resources and community news.

Q, Is that all?

A. Brave and Bold is a member of the planning committee for the MCPS Community Forum on Underage Substance Abuse Prevention, to be held October 7, 2013, at Richard Montgomery High School (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/community-engagement/community.aspx?id=320423>). Dr. Starr’s decision to host this event is in part a result of multiple Brave and Bold testimonies to the Board of Education in 2012. Brave and Bold is also a member of the Many Voices, Smart Choices Alliance, currently being formed by the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families, and of the Keeping It SAFE Coalition (KIS), which is affiliated with the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control and the Montgomery County Police. This forum will serve as our Fall 2013 parent event.

We have been featured in the *Washington Post* (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/keeping-teens-safe-from-alcohol-and-drunk-drivers/2012/01/08/gIQAcxgdmP_story.html>), *Bethesda Magazine* (<http://www.bethesdamagazine.com/Bethesda-Magazine/September-October-2012/Wasted-Youth/>), and the Montgomery County *Gazette* (<http://www.gazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=%2F20120725%2FOPINION%2F707259561%2F-1%2Fthe-problems-of-substance-abuse&&template=PrinterFriendlygaz>).

Q. How can I be involved and learn more?

A. Contact Patty Winters, Coordinator, at braveandbold2011@gmail.com and “like” us on Facebook (our logo is a white hand on a lavender heart)!

Patty Winters

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