

DECEMBER 6, 2023

# CHOOSE YOUR PATH ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 3



**CHOOSE YOUR PATH**

Substance Use Prevention Coalition  
[chooseyourpath118.org](http://chooseyourpath118.org)



# LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

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The Executive Board for the Choose Your Path Coalition is proud to share our Annual Report, in part because of the amazing accomplishments over the past year. As the 2023 recipient of the Blue Ribbon Coalition Award, we are one of 15 Drug-Free Community Coalitions across the country to receive this award. This award highlights the outstanding work our coalition has done to ensure our youth can lead healthy and fulfilling lives by preventing substance abuse.

As quoted by the October 30, 2023, White House Press Release; *“The Blue Ribbon Coalition Award recognizes high-performing coalitions that do an exceptional job creating a foundation for their work by updating and utilizing their coalition products. It is a two-year recognition that opens new doors for coalitions to share their work and become a role model in the prevention field”.*

We are grateful to all our community partners and supporters. This award truly belongs to our community and requires the commitment of all our sector representatives. Over the past three years, we have been able to achieve amazing results to reduce and prevent substance use.

One of our partners, Keeley Gallagher (Manager of Community Health, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital), recently shared, *“Choose Your Path Coalition is the most comprehensive, creative coalition I have worked with anywhere in the area.”*

The Choose Your Path Coalition, in conjunction with local law enforcement, the Youth Advisory Board Prevention Club and community stakeholders, continue to provide support and promote a drug free community. We are grateful for the many that support our mission.

Sincerely,

Choose Your Path Coalition  
Executive Board

# ABOUT US

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In December 2020, the Wauconda Area was awarded federal funding under the Drug Free Communities grant program administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This funding was awarded as a five-year cycle for \$125,000 per year. The Drug Free Communities grant program requires communities to focus on the prevention of substance use amongst underage youth. Choose Your Path is currently focusing on underage drinking but will also address underage Marijuana use, underage Tobacco/E-Cigarette use, and underage Prescription Drug use. The funding has allowed us to hire a Project Director and Project Coordinator to assist in developing the capacity and functioning of the coalition in advancing the goals and strategies of the Drug Free Communities program.

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## MISSION

**"AS A GRASSROOTS COALITION, OUR MISSION IS TO CHANGE ATTITUDES, ENCOURAGE ACTION, AND MOBILIZE STAKEHOLDERS AROUND THE ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE."**

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## VISION

**"WE ENVISION A SAFE, HEALTHY, DRUG-FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR YOUTH AND WHOLE COMMUNITY."**



# MEMBERSHIP

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## Choose Your Path Executive Board

**President:** Chief of Police David Wermes, Wauconda Police Department

**Vice President:** Reverend Dr. Kristopher Hewitt,  
Pastor Ivanhoe Congregational Church

**Treasurer:** Jennifer Kuhn, Wauconda Village Trustee

**Secretary:** Deena Krieger, Matthews Middle School Guidance Counselor

**Members at Large:** Dr. David Wilm, Superintendent of District 118 Schools  
Tim Staton, Executive Director of Wauconda Park District

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## Choose Your Path Sector Representatives

Youth: Isaac Feryance

Parents: Tara Simonelli

Schools: Dr. David Wilm

Youth-Serving Organizations: Tim Staton

Law Enforcement: David Wermes

Religious/Fraternal Organizations: Rev. Dr. Kristopher Hewitt

Business: Tracy Lehman

Media: Maria Weisbruch

Civic/Volunteer Organizations: Mark Kisselburg

Healthcare Professionals: Keeley Gallagher

State, Local, and/or Tribal Government Agencies: Jennifer Kuhn

Other Organizations involved in reducing Substance Abuse: Danielle Ryan

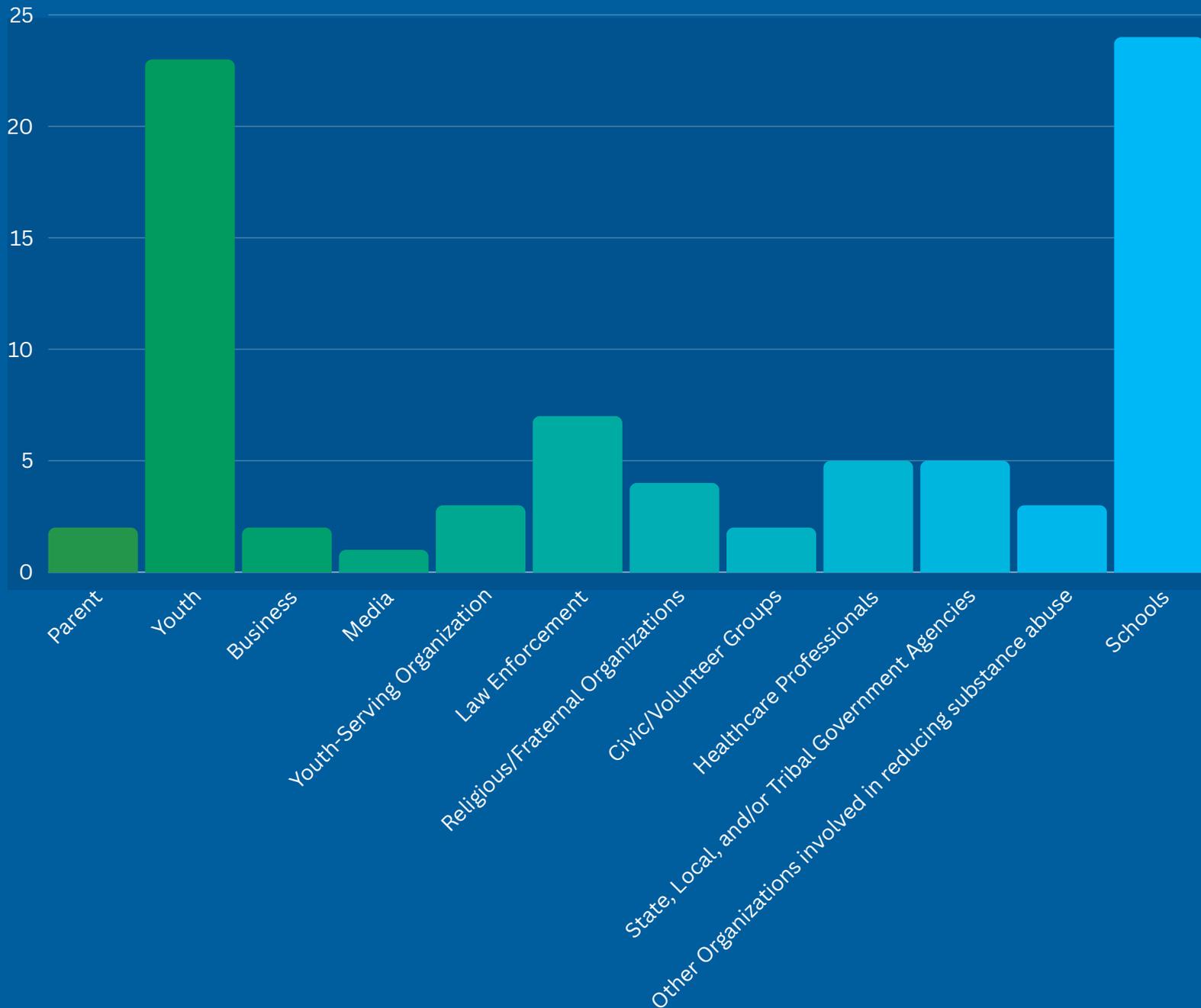
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- Choose Your Path members attended 17 different events throughout the year.
- Choose Your Path had a total number of 67 meetings throughout the year to complete the work of the coalition. This included monthly meetings, Executive Board meetings, Youth Advisory Board meetings and committee meetings.
- Choose Your Path coalition members contributed a total cumulative number of 861.25 volunteer hours throughout the year. This includes attending events, attending monthly meetings, and attending committee meetings.

**That equals to \$25,837,50 in-kind contributions for the year!**

# MEMBERSHIP

Choose Your Path currently has 79 members, 23 of those members are Youth.



## What is being done to increase membership?

- The Outreach Committee created a recruitment flyer to be shared throughout the Wauconda area.
- Youth Advisory Board members have spent time speaking with their fellow classmates about the club and why they should join.
- Youth Advisory Board members have gone to speak with the 8th grade class at Matthews Middle School and Wauconda Middle School about why they should join the club when they come to the high school.
- The Project Coordinator has attended other agencies meetings to speak about Choose Your Path.

# CHOOSE YOUR PATH GOALS

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The Drug-Free Communities Grant Program has two goals for all coalitions awarded the grant.

1. Increase Community Collaboration
  2. Reduce Substance Use among Youth
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## DFC Goal One - Increase Community Collaboration

Choose Your Path has been able to meet this goal throughout Year 3 in various ways. We have been able to partner with other organizations to put on events and we have brought community members from the Wauconda area to work together.



## DFC Goal Two - Reduce Substance Use among Youth

Choose Your Path has been able to meet this goal as seen in our Illinois Youth Survey Data. The four Core Measures are what we look for in the data.

1. Past 30-Day Use
2. Perception of Parental/Guardian/Caregiver Disapproval
3. Perception of Peer Disapproval
4. Perception of Risk

Comparing the Illinois Youth Survey 2022 to 2018 data

- Past 30-Day use **decreased**
- Perception of Parental/Guardian/Caregiver Disapproval **increased**
- Perception of Peer Disapproval **increased**
- Perception of Risk **increased**

# QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE DATA

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During the past year Choose Your Path has been able to collect data needed for the prevention efforts put forth by the coalition. We need both quantitative and qualitative data. All of the data relates back to the Drug Free Communities Core Measures. Below is the list of all the data that was collected in the past year.

- Youth Focus Groups
  - Key Informant Interviews
  - Environmental Scans
  - Compliance Checks
  - Illinois Youth Survey (IYS)
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## Focus Groups

Choose Your Path had two Youth Focus Groups. These took place in March and April. There were a total of 19 students who participated in the Youth Focus Groups. The data collected from these Focus Groups were added into our Logic Models and helped us with our prevention strategies.

## Environmental Scans

Our Environmental Scans took place on May 5th, June 29th, and June 30th. Choose Your Path members visited 17 establishments throughout Wauconda, Island Lake, and Volo. When visiting the establishments volunteers were looking for advertisement geared towards youth, items that were left unsupervised and advertised as "grab and go," "We ID" signs, or any products that would have been geared towards youth.

## Compliance Checks

The Wauconda Police Department completed compliance checks in November. **NONE of the 11 establishments sold to a minor during these compliance checks!**

# QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE DATA

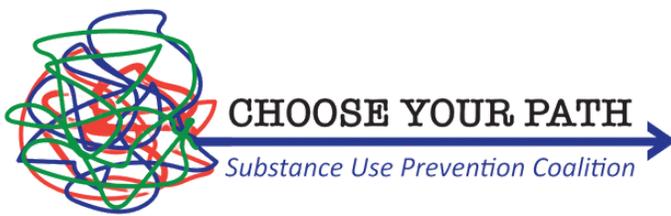
## Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) 2022

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) has funded the administration of the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) biennially since 1990. The IYS is a self-report survey administered in school settings and is designed to gather information about a variety of health and social indicators including substance use and perceptions, bullying, school climate, nutrition, and physical activity.

**When looking at the results of the IYS 2022 Survey for 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in the Wauconda School District all our of Core Measures were trending in the right direction!** You can see some of the highlights below, otherwise the full presentation can be found on our website.

Percentage of students **NOT** using the following substances in the past 30 days:

	8th Grade - Wauconda Middle School	8th Grade - Matthews Middle School	10th grade	12th grade
Alcohol	96%	91%	82%	67%
Tobacco	99%	98%	100%	99%
Marijuana	98%	97%	97%	85%
Prescription Drugs	99%	100%	99%	99%



# YEAR 3 IN REVIEW

09/30/22 - 09/29/23

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## OCTOBER

- We distributed our “Two Truths” Campaign throughout the Wauconda School District.
- Choose Your Path created their Facebook Page.
- Choose Your Path celebrated Red Ribbon Week with the Wauconda area.
- Our Youth Advisory Board presented to the 8th grade class at Wauconda Middle School.

## NOVEMBER

- Youth Advisory Board member, Autumn K., was recognized at the District 118 school board meeting.
- Choose Your Path started to meet with SUSTAIN to plan our Tall Cop training in February.
- Choose Your Path presented to the Wauconda Middle School PTO.
- Strategic and Action Planning Committee met to discuss upcoming Focus Groups, Key Informant Interviews, and updating our Logic Models.

## DECEMBER

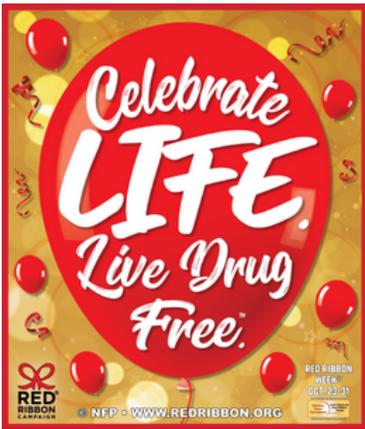
- Strategic and Action Planning Committee met to discuss 501(c)(3) application and updating our Sustainability Plan.
- Our Annual Meeting for Year 2 was conducted.
- Danielle Ryan from the Lake County Health Department presented to the Youth Advisory Board about vaping.
- Choose Your Path submitted their Wauconda Park District Spring/Summer Ad.
- Choose Your Path continued to meet with SUSTAIN about the upcoming Tall Cop training.
- Project Coordinator, Rebecca Price, and Youth Sector Liaison, Becky Feryance, were on a podcast episode for the Illinois Human Performance Project.
- We started to share the official flyer for our Tall Cop training.

## JANUARY

- Project Coordinator, Rebecca Price, met with Wauconda Fire Department’s Medical Officer, Erik Christensen, for a Key Informant Interview.
- Choose Your Path presented to the Cotton Creek PTO.
- Choose Your Path continued to meet with SUSTAIN to plan the upcoming Tall Cop training.
- Choose Your Path and the Youth Advisory Board had a table at the 8th grade preview night at Wauconda High School.
- The Sustainability Committee began meeting and discussing how to recruit new members within the Wauconda area.



# YEAR 3 HIGHLIGHTS



**RED RIBBON WEEK**  
OCTOBER 23RD - 31ST

The theme for this year is "Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free."

Please show your support for this week by wearing Red on Wednesday October 26th.



The theme for this year was, "Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free." Choose Your Path worked with the Wauconda area to celebrate this week!



## FACTS ABOUT VAPING

**21+** As of July 1, 2019, in Illinois a person must be 21 or older to purchase Tobacco or vaping products.

Vaping nicotine can add to your stress and amplify feelings of depression and anxiety. It is an illusion of stress relief, it only relieves the stress of not vaping.

Vaping can cause serious lung damage. Not all ingredients are listed and could contain flavorings or other ingredients that can be harmful to lungs.

Nicotine can harm the development of the adolescent brain in areas such as attention, learning, mood, and impulse control.

**MOST** Wauconda High School Students choose not to Vape (IYS 2022)

95% do NOT Vape  
10th Grade Students

90% do NOT Vape  
12th Grade Students

Scan to learn about the Youth Advisory Board Prevention Club




www.waucondaparks.com

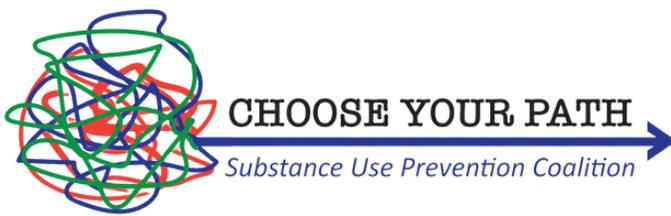
SPRING SUMMER 2023

Choose Your Path's Spring/Summer Ad in the Wauconda Park District Program Guide.

Youth Advisory Board member, Autumn K., was recognized at the District 118 School Board Meeting for receiving the Mayor's Service Award.



Choose Your Path and the Youth Advisory Board were present at the 8th Grade Preview Night at Wauconda High School.



# YEAR 3 IN REVIEW

09/30/22 - 09/29/23

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## FEBRUARY

- Project Coordinator, Rebecca Price, met with District 118 School Resource Officer, Manny Hernandez, for a Key Informant Interview.
- Choose Your Path attended CADCA's 33rd Annual Leadership Forum training.
- Choose Your Path attended Wauconda Area Chamber of Commerce Business Expo.
- Choose Your Path and SUSTAIN held their "High in Plain Sight" training, by Tall Cop Jermaine Galloway, at the College of Lake County.

## MARCH

- Student Focus groups were conducted.
- Choose Your Path went to 19 establishments in the Wauconda area to speak about our upcoming Sticker Shock Campaign.
- The Sustainability Committee met to continue conversations about how to recruit other community members from the Wauconda area.
- Choose Your Path attended the Liquor Applicant license training to speak about the upcoming Sticker Shock Campaign.
- The Youth Advisory Board conducted their first Sticker Shock Campaign and 11 establishments participated.

## APRIL

- Choose Your Path started sharing information from the "Talk. They Hear You." Campaign from SAMHSA.
- Choose Your Path met with the executive board of the United Partnership for a Better Community to discuss the possibility of becoming one 501(c)(3).
- The Strategic and Action Planning Committee met to discuss environmental scans and key informant interviews.
- The Youth Advisory Board presented to the 8th grade class at Matthews Middle School.
- Student Focus Groups were conducted.
- Choose Your Path partnered with the Wauconda Police Department and Wauconda Township to host our second annual Drug Take Back Day.



Choose Your Path attended CADCA's 33rd Annual Leadership Forum training. We were also able to attend Capitol Hill Day!



## HIGH IN PLAIN SIGHT

Presented by: TALL COP  
Officer Jermaine Galloway

Tuesday | February 28, 2023  
8:00 am—3:00 pm

IN-PERSON at  
The College of Lake County—Studio Theater, P119  
19391 W. Washington St., Grayslake, IL

**National Expert on Drug Cultures**

**YOU CAN'T STOP THE COP FROM STOPPING YOU FROM STOPPING**

Cost: \$75  
3 or More: \$70  
Member Agencies: \$40  
College Students: \$30  
CLC Students: \$15

*Breakfast and Lunch Provided!*

Registration link & more information:  
<https://sustain23.eventbrite.com>

Questions?  
[Sustain.committee@gmail.com](mailto:Sustain.committee@gmail.com)

Info on Tall Cop:  
Scan QR Code

This workshop will provide attendees with the ability, knowledge, and confidence to help prevent and identify individuals who are abusing alcohol and/or other drugs. Attendees will learn the strategies and different terms that are consistent with alcohol & other drug abuse. There are several identifiers, logos, and terms commonly related to illegal and over-the-counter drug and alcohol abuse, marijuana abuse, and drug concealment on school, home, and work property. This training is unique in that it provides over 120 visual aids for attendees to hold and become familiar with.

**TOPICS COVERED IN THE TRAINING INCLUDE:**  
alcohol and drug clothing ♦ alcoholic energy drinks ♦ alcopops ♦ concealment methods and containers ♦ logos ♦ stickers ♦ drug paraphernalia ♦ drug-related music and groups ♦ new technology ♦ youth party tendencies and games ♦ social net-working sites ♦ a vast array of drugs  
...AND MUCH MORE

This workshop is for treatment providers, mental health counselors, school personnel, probation officers, law enforcement, college students and interns, and adult community members.

Co-Sponsored by:  
Wauconda CUSD n8 & Choose Your Path Coalition ♦ Lake County Health Dept. ♦ College of Lake County, Human Services & Social Work Depts.

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE FOR 8.75 CEUs for: ICB (IAODAPCA); IDPFR—SOCIAL WORKER, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR

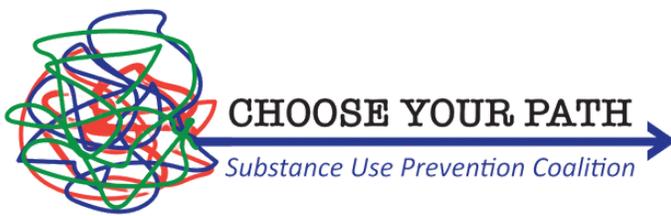
Choose Your Path and SUSTAIN collaborated to put on the “High in Plain Sight” training. The training had 185 people in attendance.



We would like to give a BIG thank you to District 118 for their in-kind donation that made this training possible!

The Youth Advisory Board had their first Sticker Shock Campaign this year.





# YEAR 3 IN REVIEW

09/30/22 - 09/29/23

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## MAY

- Our Youth Advisory Board voted to have their own Officers Board.
- Environmental Scans were conducted in Island Lake.
- Choose Your Path started the application process for the Blue Ribbon Coalition Award.

## JUNE

- Choose Your Path was recognized by the Office of National Drug Control Policy for their outcomes achieved. CADCA then reached out for us to complete a Case Study describing what work the coalition has done over the last three years throughout the 7 Strategies for Community Change.
- Choose Your Path submitted their application for Phase 1 of the Blue Ribbon Coalition Award.

## JULY

- Choose Your Path had a booth at the Wauconda Farmers Market.
- Choose Your Path finalized the poster for the Youth Advisory Board's upcoming Vape Take Back Day.
- Youth Liaison, Becky Feryance, helped finalize the new Youth Advisory Board shirt.

## AUGUST

- Project Coordinator, Rebecca Price, met with the Community Health Manager for Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, Keeley Gallagher, for a Key Informant Interview.
- Choose Your Path started sharing out their ONDCP recognition on all social media accounts.
- Our Youth Advisory Board had their first Officers Board meeting of the year.

## SEPTEMBER

- Choose Your Path made it through Phase 1 of the Blue Ribbon Coalition Awards and officially became a Blue Ribbon Coalition!
- Choose Your Path had a booth at the Wauconda Farmers Market.
- Our Youth Advisory Board had their first ever Vape Take Back Day at the Wauconda Farmers Market.
- Choose Your Path had a table at the Wauconda Latin Heritage Fest.
- During Homecoming week, Choose Your Path asked the Wauconda area to help promote the campaign, "Parents Who Host Lose the Most".

**Youth Advisory Board Prevention Club  
Officers Board - 2023-2024**

<b>President:</b>	Lily Nauseda	
<b>Vice President:</b>	Katie Marsek	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Natalie Robles	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Shawn Cecchi	
<b>Social Media:</b>	Giselle Obregon	
<b>Youth Sector Rep:</b>	Isaac Feryance	



**The Youth Advisory Board voted to have their own Officers Board.**

CHOOSE YOUR PATH - YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD PREVENTION CLUB

## "VAPE TAKE BACK DAY"

DISPOSE OF UNWANTED VAPES. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.



### EACH PERSON WHO TURNS IN A VAPE GETS A PRIZE!

- Each bag will have a gift card! Of those bags 4 will be a \$25 gift card & 1 will be a \$100 gift card.
- There will be multiple resources in the bags as well to help you quit vaping!

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

 **Wauconda Farmers Market - on Main Street**

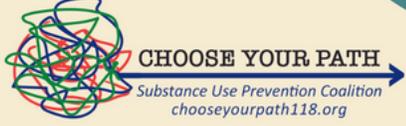
 **4pm - 7pm**



[chooseyourpath118.org](http://chooseyourpath118.org)



**The Youth Advisory Board had their very first "Vape Take Back Day". The event was a great success and we collected 23 vapes!**



## ONDCP Recognition - DFC Case Study

**What is a DFC Case Study?**

- Choose Your Path was recently asked by CADCA to complete a Case Study.
- In this Case Study we documented all the work we have done in the Wauconda area through the 7 strategies of Community Change.

**What were we recognized for?**

**Our Outcomes!**

- The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) reached out to CADCA about our Outcomes achieved through the 7 strategies for Community Change.
- They noted that all of the four core measures were trending in the right direction!

**CONGRATS**

**What are the 7 Strategies for Community change?**

1. Providing information
2. Enhancing skills
3. Providing Support
4. Enhancing Access/Reducing Barriers
5. Incentives/Disincentives
6. Physical design
7. Modifying/Changing policies

**What are the next steps?**

- Choose Your Path is going to be sharing out one pager about each strategy and what we have accomplished within that strategy
- Continue the amazing we have been able to do in the Wauconda area!!

**Core Measures**

1. Past 30 Day Use
2. Perception of Parental/Guardian/Caregiver Disapproval
3. Perception of Peer Disapproval
4. Perception of Risk

Choose Your Path was recognized for our outcomes achieved by The Office of National Control Policy. All of our Core Measures are trending in the right direction!



## Blue Ribbon Coalition - Coalition of Excellence

**Substance:** Alcohol  
**Coalition Name:** Choose Your Path

**Respondent Name and Title:** Rebecca Price, Project Coordinator  
**Respondent Contact Information:** 847-546-6450 and rprice@nicasa.org



Choose Your Path applied for the Blue Ribbon Coalition Award and won! We are officially a Blue Ribbon Coalition for the next two years. We are still waiting to hear back on Phase 2 of the Award Process.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

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We had 5 committees meet throughout the year of 2022 and 2023.

- Executive Board
- Outreach Committee
- Strategic and Action Planning Committee
- Youth Advisory Board Prevention Club
- Sustainability Committee

Each committee met for various reasons and helped move along the work of the coalition. Choose Your Path members are always encouraged to join a committee to work on a specific goal.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- The Outreach Committee met a total of once in this past year.
- The committee worked on our Outreach document, how to start tracking volunteer hours, and looking at different ways to increase membership for the coalition.

## STRATEGIC AND ACTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

- The Strategic and Action Planning Committee met a total of 5 times in this past year.
- This committee has been in charge of keeping our National Coalition Academy Products up to date. This would include our Community Assessment, Logic Models, Action Plans, and Evaluation Plans.
- This committee was also responsible for planning the Youth Focus Groups, Environmental Scans, and Key Informant Interviews.

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

- The Executive Board meets a total of 4 times each year.
- The Executive Board is responsible for providing leadership for the coalition.
- The Executive Board met on some of the following topics - Choose Your Path's Sustainability Plan, the "High in Plain Sight" training, looking at ways to help increase membership for the coalition, "Vape Take Back" Day, "Drug Take Back" Day, Volunteer Recognition Program, CADCA trainings, and the Coalition Feedback Survey.

# SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- The Sustainability Committee has met a total of 4 times this year.
- This committee is responsible for creating a Sustainability Plan for the coalition once the DFC Grant funding ends.
- This committee has continued to learn about the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) organization in the state of Illinois. They are also looking at ways to help increase membership for the coalition.



# YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD PREVENTION CLUB

The Youth Advisory Board has grown tremendously since the start of the grant and continues to work hard to spread the mission of the coalition.

- The Youth Advisory Board met a total of 11 times over the past year.
- During the meetings the following topics were discussed - Officer Roles, Fundraising, Social Media, Sticker Shock Campaign, Red Ribbon Week, Middle School Presentations, T-shirt designs, Community Awards, “Vape Take Back” Day, Farmers Markets, and Social Norm Campaigns.
- During this year the Youth Advisory Board received presentations on the following topics - Illinois Youth Survey Data, Vaping, Nicasa’s Teen Court Program, Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute, Illinois Human Performance Project topics, and Snowball events.
- The Youth Advisory Board created 5 Social Norm Campaigns.

**FACTS ABOUT VAPING**

21+ As of July 1, 2019, in Illinois a person must be 21 or older to purchase Tobacco or vaping products.

Vaping nicotine can add to your stress and amplify feelings of depression and anxiety. It's an illusion of stress relief, it only relieves the stress of not vaping.

Vaping can cause serious lung damage. Not all ingredients are listed and could contain flavorings or other ingredients that can be harmful to vapers.

Nicotine can harm the development of the adolescent brain in areas such as attention, learning, mood, and impulse control.

**MOST** Wauconda High School Students choose not to Vape (IYS 2022)

95% do NOT Vape (10th Grade Students)

90% do NOT Vape (12th Grade Students)

CHOOSE YOUR PATH. Visit to learn about the Youth Advisory Board Prevention Club.



**Drunk driving is different than driving high.**

**Driving after marijuana use is dangerous.**

**TWO TRUTHS**

Alcohol and marijuana impact the body differently and therefore impact driving differently. The bottom line is if you feel different, you drive different. And in the case of marijuana, sometimes people drive differently even when they don't feel high.

Reasons why it's illegal to drive after marijuana use:

- Marijuana use decreases peripheral vision & impairs judgment of distance.
- Effects on drivers include increased lane weaving & slowed reaction time.
- After alcohol, marijuana is the drug used most often by drivers in crashes.

To stay safe, pledge never to ride with someone who used marijuana.

**You determine your future.**

**DO YOU KNOW THE DANGERS OF VAPING?**

38 of the chemicals and carcinogens that are listed on the EPA's "Harmful and Potentially Harmful Constituents (HPHC) list are found in vape juice, including formaldehyde, benzene (found in pesticides and gasoline), and cadmium (toxic heavy metal used in car batteries).

**Short Term Effects:**

- Attention and Learning Problems
- Negative Impacts on Academic Performance
- Risk of Poisoning\*

**Long Term Effects:**

- Nicotine Addiction
- Disruption of Brain Cell Development
- Scientists are still studying... It took over 25 years to see the long-term health impacts of smoking Tobacco

**YOU DETERMINE YOUR FUTURE.**

CHOOSE YOUR PATH. Visit to learn about the Youth Advisory Board Prevention Club.



# YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD PREVENTION CLUB



**CHOOSE YOUR PATH**

Substance Use Prevention Coalition  
chooseyourpath118.org



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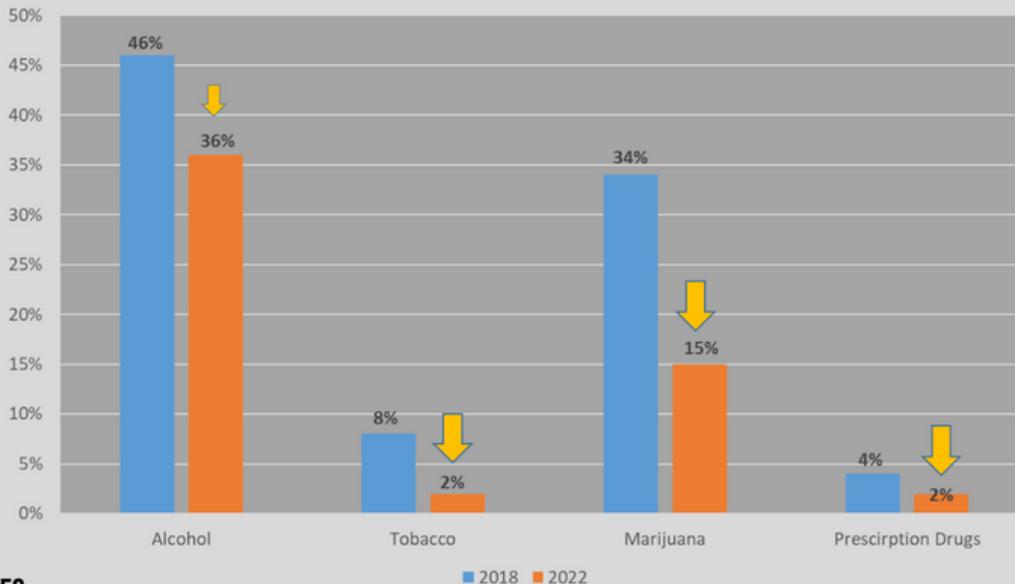
CHOOSE YOUR PATH COALITION



WE KNOW THAT WHEN THE YOUTH HAVE A VOICE, REAL CHANGE CAN HAPPEN!



Wauconda High School – Past 30 Day Substance Use among 12th graders



## OUR OUTCOMES

- WE KNOW THAT IN 2022, ACCORDING TO OUR ILLINOIS YOUTH SURVEY THE PERCENTAGE OF 12TH GRADERS WHO REPORTED GETTING ALCOHOL FROM A FRIEND **DROPPED BY 22%**.
- WE KNOW THAT IN 2022, ACCORDING TO OUR ILLINOIS YOUTH SURVEY THE PERCENTAGE OF 12TH GRADERS REPORTING ALCOHOL USE IN THE PAST 30 DAYS **DROPPED BY 10%**.

## OUR CALL TO ACTION!



**CHOOSE YOUR PATH WOULD LIKE THE YOUTH IN THE WAUCONDA AREA TO**

- CONTINUE TO NOT ENGAGE WITH SUBSTANCES
- CONTINUE TO FURTHER THE COALITION'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT BY HELPING OTHERS NOT ENGAGE IN SUBSTANCE USE
- SPREAD INFORMATION AND AWARENESS ABOUT PREVENTION THROUGH THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

# WHAT IS COMING UP IN 2023/2024

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Here are just some of the things Choose Your Path will be focusing on during the next year.

- Postcard Mailing - This was a success during our first year and we would like to bring it back.
- Illinois Youth Survey Data - The survey will be administered in early 2024 and we are looking forward to the results.
- Phase 2 of the Blue Ribbon Coalition Award - If we win Coalition of Excellence we will present at the 34th Annual CADCA Leadership Forum!
- Prom and Homecoming - During Prom and Homecoming we will be planning to educate the community on Social Hosting Laws and promoting the "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" Campaign.
- Data Collection - we are planning to complete Focus Groups, Environmental Scans, Compliance Checks, and Key Informant Interviews.
- National Drug Take Back Day - We plan to host this event each April.
- Future Social Norm Campaigns - These will be created by our Youth Advisory Board and Coalition members.
- Wauconda Community events - we are planning to continue to support the community through attendance at our regular events.
- Presentations from our Youth Advisory Board to both Middle Schools.



***Choose Your Path would be no where without the hard work and dedication from all it's members! So THANK YOU for all that you do and we are looking forward to all the work we will do in the next year!***