

Contact Information:
Gil Feliciano
DFC Coordinator
Coalition For A Safe & Healthy Elgin
(847) 742-3545 ext. 267
gfeliciano@RenzCenter.org

COALITION FOR A SAFE & HEALTHY ELGIN HONORED AT CADCA'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM

Elgin, IL – On February 5th, the Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Elgin was one of 112 community coalitions honored during a graduation ceremony at CADCA's (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) National Leadership Forum, just outside of Washington, D.C. The coalitions received a graduation certificate for completing CADCA's National Coalition Academy, a rigorous training program designed to increase the effectiveness of community drug prevention leaders.

"We are so proud of our coalition for investing the time and resources to take advantage of the best community coalition training in the world. To graduate from this year-long intensive course is no small feat and Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Elgin is more prepared today to be an effective, sustainable coalition because of this training," said Drug Free Communities Coordinator Gil Feliciano. "We look forward to applying our knowledge and strategies to ensure Elgin youth in our community live drug free."

The coalition recently worked on tying hundreds of red ribbons to the two downtown Elgin bridges in honor of national red ribbon week. Other recent activities include a Parent University at Elgin High School, a prevention series at Elgin Community College, alternative dance nights with Elgin middle schoolers and a collaborative effort with the Elgin Police and Advocate Sherman Hospital in National Prescription Take Back day collecting over 40 lbs. of expired prescription drugs.

CADCA's National Coalition Academy (NCA) is a comprehensive, year-long training program developed by CADCA's National Coalition Institute. The NCA incorporates three, week-long classroom sessions, a web-based distance learning component, an online workstation where participants network and share planning products and free ongoing coalition development technical assistance. To graduate, coalitions must complete a rigorous curriculum. They must participate in all components of the NCA and complete five essential planning products that serve as the foundation of their comprehensive plan for community change.

CADCA's National Leadership Forum is a four-day event packed with opportunities to learn the latest strategies to address substance abuse and hear from nationally-known prevention experts, federal administrators, and concerned policymakers. The Forum brings together approximately 3,000 attendees representing coalitions from all regions of the country and

internationally, government leaders, youth, prevention specialists, addiction treatment professionals, addiction recovery advocates, researchers, educators, law enforcement professionals, and faith-based leaders. It is the largest training event for the prevention field.

Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Elgin (CSHE) seeks a safe and healthy Elgin free of violence and substance use through prevention, education and action. Renz Addiction Counseling Center is the fiscal agent for the Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Elgin. CSHE is funded in part by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's Drug-Free Communities grant. For more information, visit CSHElgin.org.

About CADCA

The mission of CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) is to strengthen the capacity of community coalitions to create and maintain safe, healthy and drug-free communities globally. This is accomplished by providing coalition development assistance and training, public policy advocacy, special events, media strategies and marketing programs.

###

Mktg/cshe/press release/CADCA National Leadership