

Safe Homes is a parent networking campaign to promote communication among parents and within families,

with the primary goal of reducing underage alcohol and drug use, and other high risk behaviors.

The Safe Homes team, including at least one parent from each Downingtown school, has developed a set of [principles](#) that we hope become the norm for our community.



As Downingtown parents we will support each other and the youth of the DASD community while we:

1. **Model healthy behavior;**
2. **Actively supervise all gatherings or parties of youth in our home and on our property; inform parents/guardians if we will not be home when their child plans to visit;**
3. **Welcome calls from other parents when their child plans to visit our home, as well as calling to verify adult supervision when our child visits another home.**
4. **Not allow the possession or use of ATOD by underage youth in our home or on our property;**
5. **Keep alcohol, tobacco, all medications including prescription drugs, and firearms inaccessible and monitored;**
6. **Discuss expectations and accurate information pertaining to ATOD use and firearms with our children- early and often, in an age appropriate manner.**

The program itself was developed by the PA Liquor Control Board's alcohol education arm over 15 years ago. Downingtown Communities That Care (dtownctc.org) chose to implement it this year, in partnership with Downingtown schools, in response to the highest risk factors for DASD reported from the PAYS (Pennsylvania Youth Survey) which is given biennially to 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students.

Some of the highest risk factors for our community, as reported by the 2013 PA Youth Survey –

*** LOW PERCEIVED RISK OF DRUG USE**

DASD students do not believe there is significant risk of harm with drug/alcohol use.

*** POOR FAMILY MANAGEMENT (NEW)**

Inconsistent or unusually harsh punishment; parents' failure to provide clear expectations; parents' failure to monitor children's behavior

*** REWARDS FOR ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR**

Safe Homes Champions at each school will share information and resources and host discussion groups, films, and speakers on current issues around parenting.

The 2014-15 Safe Homes team includes 17 parents from 16 Downingtown schools and a coordinator from CTC! (For contact information see "Safe Homes Team" below) The team developed the mission and goals, using the PA LCB guidelines. They have also put together 9 monthly flyers of helpful tips "for parents from parents" that will be distributed in each school by the parent liaison and local H&S.

More information can be found on:

Facebook at "Downingtown Safe Homes",
Downingtown Communities that Care website (dtownctc.org),
and your Home & School page.

