

February 23, 2023

At your next official meeting, **please proclaim April as Social Responsibility Month**. A proclamation is attached—please return by email or USPS to show your support of our initiative. This is a 14-County Northern Michigan effort, inviting municipalities, school boards and all units of law enforcement to take a position on underage drinking and social host activities within our communities and our goal this year is 100% participation. We want to remind parents and community members that the safety and protection of our youth is a priority. We are coordinating our proclamation to occur in April which is also Alcohol Awareness Month and will focus our efforts on reducing/eliminating underage drinking.

This call to action will create a strengthened framework of public officials and community leaders around illegal underage alcohol use and decrease social host activities based on the following facts:

- Alcohol is a factor in the four leading causes of death among persons ages 10-24: motor vehicle crashes, unintentional injuries, homicide and suicide.
- Social Host Liability Law holds homeowners legally responsible for allowing underage drinking on their property. This can result in criminal liability if that youth is killed or injured or if that youth kills or injures someone else. Homeowner insurance does not cover claims where illegal acts are the cause for the claim.
- Teens aged 13-18 report that they can obtain alcohol easily – and often from familiar, non-retail sources (parents, friends of parents, graduation parties, weddings, etc.).
- Despite extreme negative consequences of underage alcohol use, alcohol is viewed as a rite of passage and not a big deal in many Northern Michigan communities.
- Tolerating underage alcohol use sends a mixed message to those under 21 – saying that it's ok to break this law!
- The 2022 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth report, of 14 counties of northern Michigan who participated, an average of 9th grader and of 11th graders have been drunk in their lifetime.

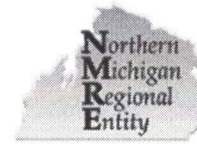
As a community leader or public official, you're aware that underage drinking affects the bottom line. Increased utilization of taxpayer services such as emergency services, law enforcement, child protective services and property damage are a few examples.

In April 2023, on our website www.upnorthprevention.com, we will recognize all who have proclaimed April as Social Host Responsibility Month, with a feature article on the harms and dangers of underage drinking and social host liability. Your participation will increase the effectiveness of this campaign and reinforce a parent's decision to *not* host or turn a cheek to an underage drinking party, an adult not purchasing alcohol for a minor and most importantly and quite possibly - save a life.

The deadline for submission of your proclamation is ~~March 23rd~~ ^{APRIL 14}. This campaign will also include participation with local retailers and restaurants using message stickers for take-out orders and promotional signage in their establishments.

As prom, graduation and summer-time approach, risks heighten for the young people in our communities. Please take action at your next meeting. If you have any questions, please contact me, your designated substance abuse prevention specialist, **[NAME PHONE #]** or email **[YOUR EMAIL]**.

CHET SPENCER 989-255-6638 / C.SPENCER@CATHOLIC HUMAN SERVICES.ORG.
Sincerely,



Proclamation

APRIL 2023 IS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

Underage drinking is a national public health issue with serious implications. Although we have done much work and made progress here in northern Michigan to address this pervasive problem, there is still much more we can do. According to a study by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 10 million people younger than the age of 21 drank alcohol in the past month in the United States.

WHERE AS, underage drinking is a problem that affects our community, our health, and our future. It exacts a terrible toll on individuals and families, and places a costly tax burden on the community at large for law enforcement, medical services, and other social services involved in the prevention and treatment of underage drinking, and

WHERE AS, underage drinking has severe consequences, many of which parents and caregivers may not be fully aware. Consequences of underage drinking may include injury or death from accidents; unintended, unwanted, and unprotected sexual activity; academic problems; and drug use; and

WHERE AS, parents and caregivers have a significant influence on young people's decisions about alcohol consumption, especially when they create supportive and nurturing alcohol-free environments; and

WHERE AS, youth who start drinking before the age of 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or misuse later in life than those who begin drinking at or after age 21; and

WHERE AS, alcohol use by young people is dangerous, not only because of the risks associated with acute impairment, but also because of the grave threat to their long-term development and well-being; and

WHERE AS, parents, educators, and community leaders who work with our young people every day are our best advocates for responsible decision-making; and

WHERE AS, one hundred percent of any alcohol consumed by a minor came from an adult. At one time, an adult over the age of 21 was in control of the alcohol and a minor gained access to it, and

WHERE AS, it is illegal for adults to knowingly allow their child's friends to drink alcohol in their home, even with the permission of the friends' parents, and adults have the authority and should have the responsibility to take steps to reduce the likelihood that their homes will become venues for underage drinking, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, _____ (organization) of the County of _____ a Community Committed to UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION, do hereby proclaim that April 2023 is Social Responsibility Month. We also call upon all parents, citizens, homeowners and property owners to host gatherings responsibly and take measures to eliminate access of alcohol to persons under the age of 21.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2023

County of _____

Authorized Official Signature _____

(Print name): _____

(Print title): _____