

## PRESS RELEASE

**Release:** February 14, 2008  
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### ***Madison SPF-SIG Project receives \$500 Federal Grant to host Town Hall Meeting!***

A \$500 Federal grant has been awarded to Madison Middle School SPF-SIG project, “**Stop Youth Drinking, Start Thinking Coalition**”, to assist with the group’s effort in hosting a Town Hall Meeting on April 8, 2008. The grant was awarded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services’ “Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Underage drinking continues to be a leading public health problem in the United States. Alcohol use threatens the safe and healthy development of more young people than any other substance—even more than tobacco and illicit drugs! On an average day in 2006, 7,970 teens drank alcohol for the first time, a much higher number than begin smoking or trying illicit drugs. Alcohol use among children and adolescents starts early and increases rapidly with age. As part of a national effort to help communities in their efforts to stop underage drinking, a series of Town Hall Meetings will take place across America during the week of March 31–April 4, 2008. This nationwide effort will support efforts to meet goals from *The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking* and is supported by the Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD).

Renaé Gaines, SPF-SIG Community Coordinator, stated that “Our Underage Drinking Prevention: Town Hall Meeting is a part of a national effort to increase understanding and awareness of underage drinking and its consequences, and to encourage individuals, families, and communities to address the problem” “The Town Hall Meeting will provide our community with the opportunity to come together to learn more about the new research on underage drinking and its impact on both individuals and the community, and to discuss how our community can implement the recommendations in *The Surgeon General’s Call to Action* to prevent underage alcohol use. These Town Hall Meetings are designed to alert and empower the community as well as generate interest from the media” said Ms. Gaines.

The West Seattle Town Hall Meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at South Seattle Community College (Brockey Center), 6000 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W. Seattle, WA 98106. All members of the community are encouraged to attend the Town Hall Meeting. If you are interested in assisting with or participating in the Town Hall Meeting you should contact Renaé Gaines at (206) 252-9179 or (206) 396-2945.

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