SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY COALITION

This year has been incredible for our community outreach efforts! We've had the privilege of working directly with people of all ages in our communities. Here's what we've accomplished together in 2024 & 2025.

⚖️Restorative Justice Program

We're proud to continue our **52-1 Court Program** specifically designed for minors who have been ticketed for vaping or consuming alcohol. Instead of just facing penalties, these young people get a chance to learn, reflect, and make positive changes.

What makes this program special:

- Provides an alternative to traditional court proceedings
- Focuses on education rather than punishment
- Helps young people to understand the real consequences of their choices
- Builds stronger connections between youth and community resources
- Gives participants tools to make healthier decisions going forward

The feedback from both participants and families has been overwhelmingly positive. We're seeing real behavior changes and stronger family connections as a result of this program.

🎯Table Talks at Local High Schools

For the past 5 years, we've been busy bringing our monthly interactive education programs directly to students at **South Lyon East High School (SLEHS)** and **South Lyon High School (SLHS)**.

Our Table Talks focus on:

- **Substance misuse prevention** – Real talk about risks and consequences
- **Dangers of vaping** – Breaking down myths with facts
- **Mental wellness** – Practical strategies for stress and anxiety
- **Peer encouragement** – Building supportive relationships
- **Interactive games** – Learning through fun, memorable activities

The students have been amazing to work with! They ask thoughtful questions, share their own experiences, and really engage with the material.

👥 Abbey Park Community Partnership

Our partnership with **Abbey Park** has been going strong all year long! We've been able to reach residents and families at multiple community events with important health and safety information.

Abbey Park events we participated in:

- **Healthy Heart event** – Combining heart health with prescription safety education
- **Fall Festival** – Making prevention education part of family fun
- **Christmas Fair** – Spreading awareness during festive community gatherings
- **Prescription Disposal Program** – Providing safe disposal options for unused medications
- **Prescription Education series** – Teaching families about safe medication practices

These events are perfect opportunities to provide resources in a relaxed, friendly environment and safely dispose of expired medication.

🚨Life-Saving Training & Education

This year, we stepped up our efforts to address the opioid crisis head-on with training and powerful educational presentations that are making a real difference in our community.

Critical training and education provided:

- **Narcan Training** – Teaching community members how to save lives during overdose emergencies
- **Fentanyl Fathers presentations** – Brought this powerful national campaign to speak to all grades at both SLEHS and SLHS. This presentation brought real stories from real families affected by the fentanyl crisis. The messaging was age appropriate and provided life-saving information.

The Fentanyl Fathers presentations were particularly impactful. Having real fathers share their stories about losing children to fentanyl poisoning creates a connection that statistics alone never could. Students and staff were deeply moved, and many said it changed how they think about the risks of any unknown substances.

🤝Coalition Building & Policy Impact

Prevention work is most effective when we all work together. This year, we've been active partners in creating systemic change at both local and state levels.

Our collaborative efforts:

- **Local coalitions** – Partnered to create comprehensive substance prevention programs for our communities
- **State-wide task forces** – Played supportive roles in broader policy and prevention initiatives
- **Retail education program** – Educated local stores about vaping and alcohol laws

By taking the time to educate store owners and employees about vaping and alcohol laws, we helped them understand not just the legal requirements, but why these laws matter for protecting young people. When Oakland County conducted their random compliance checks, every store we worked with passed – that's 100% compliance!

🏕️Girl Scouts & Brownies Partnership

We had such a wonderful time working with our local **Girl Scouts and Brownies** this year! These young leaders were eager to learn and earned badges while building important life skills.

Badge-earning programs we led:

- **Healthy & Unhealthy Friendships course** – Teaching scouts how to recognize and build positive relationships
- **Feelings & Emotions course** – Helping young people understand and manage their emotions effectively

The enthusiasm these scouts showed was infectious! Plus, they got to add new badges to their collections – a win-win for everyone involved.

🎬Movies in the Park Community Outreach

This summer, we're taking our prevention message directly to families SLARA'S at **Movies in the Park**. Sometimes the best conversations happen when people are just enjoying time together!

Our movie night initiatives:

- **Finding Dory screening** – Distributing lock boxes to families as a practical way to keep medications and substances safely locked up, preventing children from accessing them
- **Pitch Perfect showing** – Speaking with teens about vaping dangers and misinformation through fun, interactive games

Parents can grab a lock box to store their medicines, and teens can learn about vaping facts before viewing a fun movie – all while everyone's having a great time together.

🚀SL8 Partnership

We're excited to have continued our collaboration with the school district's **SL8 Day** – an all-day program specifically designed for the district's 8th graders.

Our role in SL8:

- **Brought in a national motivational speaker** to kickoff the day and to energize students with an inspiring message on mental health
- **Brought in vaping education speaker** to address the critical issue of vaping among teens
- **Served on the SL8 committee** to help plan and ensure a successful day for all participants

Watching 8th graders get pumped up about taking care of their mental health and making good choices as they head into high school is incredibly rewarding.

⬆️ What's Up? Life Skills Program

For the second year running, we successfully implemented the **What's Up?** (aka Botvin Life Skills) program. This isn't just any life skills program – it's a worldwide evidence-based program that's proven to make a real difference in young people's lives.

What made this summer special:

- **12 comprehensive life skills topics** covered through interactive discussions
- Students & parents ASKED to reschedule a class to ensure everyone could attend

The beauty of this program is that it's not just theory – it's practical skills that students can use right away and tools they need to navigate life's challenges successfully.

🌟Looking Back, Moving Forward

As we wrap up our 2024/2025 year, we're grateful for the trust that schools, families, community partners, youth organizations, local coalitions, and retail businesses have placed in us and that each initiative has exceeded our expectations in terms of participation and positive outcomes.

We continue to learn from the South Lyon and Lyon Township communities. They understand how important prevention work and mental health support are. This inspires us every day to keep doing this important work.

What's next for 2025:

- Expanding our monthly Table Talks into the middle schools
- Continue building a strong Executive Board as we navigate our work and success in the community
- Pursuing other Oakland County courts our 52-1 Court Program to offer our Restorative Justice program
- Continuing our successful SL8 partnership with even more engaging speakers
- Growing our Abbey Park community event presence and bring our resources and education to other senior citizen organizations and residential facilities
- Expanding Narcan training & prescription disposal programs to reach even more community members
- Explore diverse funding sources and sponsorships to sustain SLCC operations
- Strengthening our role in state-wide prevention task forces
- Growing our Girl Scout and Brownies programming with new badge opportunities
- Running the What's Up? Life Skills program for a third summer
- Developing new interactive activities based on community feedback
- Training more volunteers to help with our expanding programs

THANK YOU!

None of this would be possible without the support of our sector representatives, community, South Lyon Community Schools, dedicated volunteers, and most importantly, the people who participate in our programs.
Here's to continued growth and positive change in 2025/2026!