

## Alcohol and Drug Awareness

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

A few months ago, I received a ticket for being a minor in possession of alcohol. I was at a boat dock in the evening with three friends and one of them had swiped a bottle of wine, we had all planned to have some as we sat on the dock and talked and swam. The fact that one specific friend had physically taken the wine does not mean it was her fault. We all took part in the decision making, and we all agreed that that is what we wanted to do that night. We were all a little worried; we knew we were doing something risky. This feeling came upon us for good reason; because soon after we opened the bottle of wine two cops came down to the dock. We were all given MIPs but luckily enough we were also given a second chance by our judge. We have been attending Alcohol and Drug Awareness classes to dismiss our tickets. At first we all believed the classes to be a waste of our time, because we talk about driving under the influence most of the time and that wasn't what we were in trouble for. After the first hour or so of our first class, we had already been impacted by our speaker. Though we had not done anything to harm ourselves while we were on that dock before the police came down, if we had made one wrong choice that night we could have put any one we came across in terrible danger.

Both the Alive at 25 and CDC classes taught me and my friends how to make the right and safe decisions. Even when we are not doing anything wrong, other people can put us in danger. This could mean a friend smuggling and then drinking a beer or a shot in the car while you're driving. If you get pulled over and the smell of alcohol is in the air or on anyone's breath, that means serious trouble. It is important to be able to take control of situations like this and to not be afraid to do so. Another example is getting tricked into going to a party that has alcohol at it. This has happened to be once before, and the experience was terrifying. I had no car and no way of getting home until the person that had driven me there felt like it. I was too afraid to pressure anyone to give me a ride back to where I was supposed to be, so I sat in the corner the whole night until my "friend" was ready to leave the party scene. After taking these classes, I have learned was to get myself out of situations like that. I could have called my parents to come and pick me up, or another one of my friends that was not at the party. The Alcohol and Drug Awareness classes I have been taking have taught me how to stand up for myself and the importance of making the right decisions for myself.

I'd like to thank the Guy and Deborah for taking time out of their lives and speaking for us about such things, I believe that they have saved more peoples lives than they think.