



SAFE

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

News and Events February 2024



Chad Hollister to headline SAFE Coffeehouse grand opening

EVENT CALENDAR

Featured Events

SAFE Coffeehouse Grand Opening, Sat. 3/2 6:30pm

Featuring the music of Chad Hollister, State Rep Jeff Roy and special guest Oomiya Kawas. Vermont native Chad Hollister has released six albums, opened for Bob Dylan, Paul Simon and Tom Petty, shared the stage with Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top), Warren Haynes (Gov't Mule) and members of PHISH. Sat. 3/2, 6:30-9:00 PM. Free to attend, registration required. Email jderick@safecoalitionma.org

Rainbow Connection, Multiple dates

6-week workshop for LGBTQ+ teens seeking self-discovery, community-

building, and empowerment through storytelling. Skill building sessions and mentorship help participants craft unique life narratives, culminating in a powerful storytelling stage event. 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month 4-5:30pm. Registration and info: info@safecoalitionma.org

Artists etc. @ SAFE Coalition

Bi-weekly artist peer support group. All are welcome. This is a great place to get support with your art, and all talents are welcome. Every other Weds 7-8:30pm; next session Feb 21st.

Join Us!

All our programs are confidential and no cost to any community member. For a full list of SAFE's support groups, trainings, and events, please visit our website.

SAFE Coalition



05.01.24

Save the Date

2nd Annual SAFE COALITION GALA

MAY 1, 2024 AT 6:00PM
LAKEVIEW PAVILION, FOXBORO, MA

More to come!

NEWS AND HEADLINES

Long-term Effects



Smoke is Smoke!
Run the risk of
damaging your
lungs!



There is strong evidence that
cannabis negatively impacts the
brain, especially a young
person's brain!



Source: SAFE Up in Smoke coursework

SAFE's Substance Use Diversion Program Partners with Local Schools for Lasting Impact

SAFE Coalition's ongoing school partnership program is helping hundreds of local teens better understand their decisions related to substance use. An alternative to traditional school suspension policies, Up in Smoke's diversion-based program invites students for three full-day, in-person, small group classes.

With trained staff who meet in-person with five students at a time, making Up in Smoke the only program of its kind in the region. Founded in 2022, the program has logged over seven hundred hours helping more than 130 teens seek a recovery plan for the use of nicotine, marijuana and other controlled substances.

Emma Kelley, SAFE's Director of Wellness, says emphasis on connection rather than suspension is the program's key to success. "Instead of taking away their community, we offer them a chance to create a community with other students and explore their coping mechanisms," she says.

Up in Smoke builds on the highly regarded Stanford curriculum to help students discover freedom and self-respect through daily habits. According to Kelley, coursework is designed in a way that "gives students a chance to think critically about the reasons behind why they are using substances, and to build tools they can use to cope with difficult situations in their life."

Participants in the program report that the course provides greater perspective and a sense of camaraderie. "I felt very safe here," says one program graduate, "I never feel comfortable sharing anything with my parents or therapists but I really felt comfortable here."

“Up in Smoke” arrives at a critical moment in Massachusetts, where [legislation passed in 2022](#) calls on public schools to use alternatives to suspension that “re-engage the student in the learning process.”

Jen Knight-Levine, CEO and founder of SAFE, values Up in Smoke’s alignment with the requirements of Law C.71. “We are thrilled that The Mass Department of Secondary and Elementary Ed values the practices of restorative justice, social-emotional wellness, and mediation as we at SAFE do,” she says. “These requirements enhance every child’s ability to learn decision-making and buffer the impact suspensions can have on a child’s success.”

While other programs encourage behavioral change through online coursework, Up in Smoke values true growth and self reflection through a highly interactive face-to-face approach.

Any student may be referred to the “Up in Smoke” program. To refer a student for an upcoming session, visit our [info page](#).

School administration interested in bringing Up In Smoke to your school for the 2024-25 school year can [learn more here](#) or email info@safecoalitionma.org.

Gallery: This Season at SAFE

Thank you to all who attended our Jack Frost Jubilee and psychic connections night with Dr. Cathy Ripley Greene. Our community grows and thrives because of you!











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