

# Hoot's Chalk Talk Raises Awareness

Father speaks of son's suicide and steroids

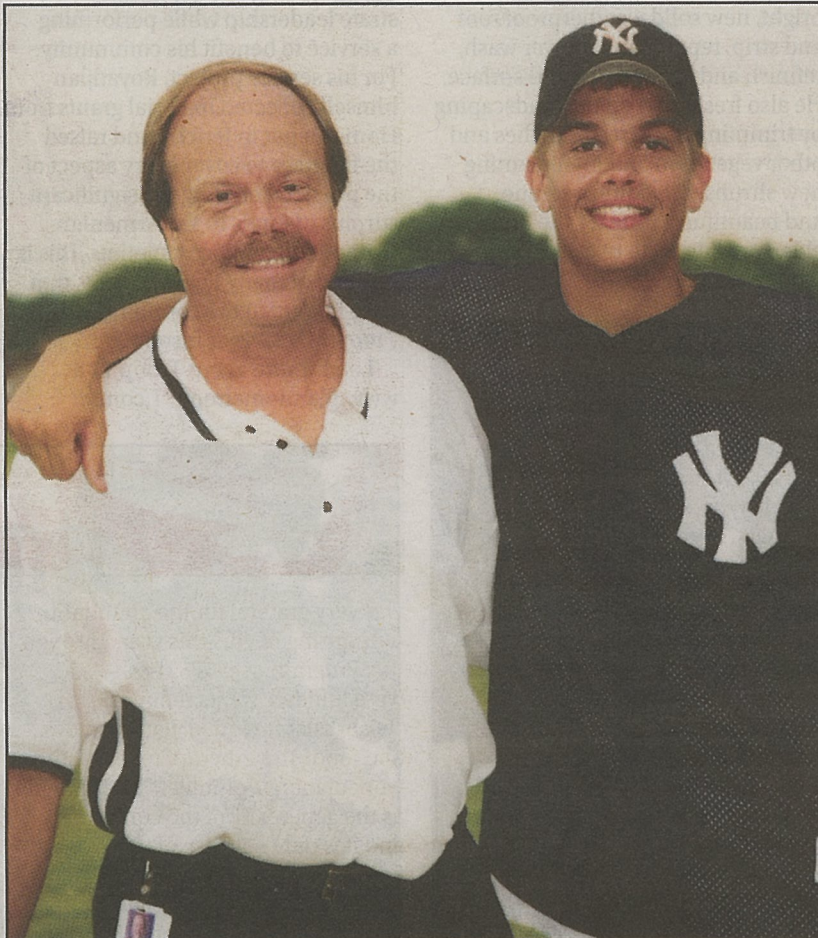
BY MANHASSET PRESS STAFF

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Don Hooton Sr. and his family founded the Taylor Hooton Foundation in 2004, the year following the loss of their son Taylor, a high school athlete who committed suicide after suffering the side effects of anabolic steroid use and withdrawal.

On Thursday, Jan. 29 at 3:30 p.m. (students) and 7:30 p.m. (parents) Taylor's dad, Don Hooton, Sr., will present Hoot's Chalk Talk at Manhasset High School as part of Manhasset CASA's National Drug Facts Week. The program is sponsored by Manhasset Booster Club, Manhasset SCA and Manhasset CASA and will raise awareness about the dangers of appearance and performance enhancing drugs, energy drinks, and dietary/protein supplements.

The Taylor Hooton Foundation is the nation's leading educator on appearance and performance enhancing drugs (APEDS). High profile baseball stars like Mets Pitcher Dillon Gee and NY Yankees Brett Gardner participate on its Advisory Board. The foundation also includes high ranking national partners such as Major & Minor League Baseball, National Hockey League, National Football League, the National Athletic Trainers' Association, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and the New York Yankees.



**Don Hooton Sr. is shown here with son Taylor who died in 2003. Don Hooton Sr's Chalk Talk program has proven to be highly effective in helping raise awareness and inform students, coaches and parents to the serious issue of steroid abuse among today's young adults, as well as encouraging character traits like honor and moral integrity.**

According to the Hooton Foundation, the median age for first time users of steroids is 15 and over 1.5 million teens admit to using anabolic steroids. In its 2011 report, the American Academy of Pediatrics discouraged use of energy drinks for children of all ages, including young athletes, and a joint study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Institute of Medicine recommended that beverages available in schools should be caffeine-free (DAWN Report 1/10/13).

During National Drugs Fact Week, Manhasset Secondary School students in grades 8, 10 and 12 will also participate in the Bach Harrison Online Prevention Needs Assessment Survey. The survey will be administered by Manhasset Public Schools & Manhasset CASA to assess current youth substance use & risk behaviors. The biannual survey is similar to the Monitoring the Future Survey, a national study of the behaviors, attitudes, and values of American secondary school students. Manhasset's Bach Harrison survey will also include new questions regarding steroid use, energy drinks, e-cigarettes and hookah smoking in Manhasset CASA's efforts to stay in front of youth trends.

For more information about Hoot's Chalk Talk or past Bach Harrison survey results, go to [manhassetcasa.org](http://manhassetcasa.org).

## PROJECT SHARE from page 22

Special thanks goes to the chair-people and their families who gave most generously during the busy holiday season and ensured each family was provided for: Lisa Middleton and Monica Zenobio (High School); Becky Donahue, Lori Kearns, Joy Sargent, and Liz Tomaselli (Middle School); Heidi Franchetti, Karen Solon, and Saskia Valentine (Munsey Park); Danielle O'Sullivan and Nancy Lefkowitz (Shelter Rock).

Lastly, Project Share would like to thank Pamela McDonough, Physical

Education Teacher at the secondary school for once again choosing Project Share as the local beneficiary of the annual Candy Cane Tournament. This tournament is held each year during the school day at the secondary school just before winter break and is a fun way for students to raise money for a charity during holidays.

Project Share's goal is to bring a smile to a child. This holiday season Project Share was able to bring a smile to many children. For more information on Project Share please contact [mscaproject@gmail.com](mailto:mscaproject@gmail.com).



## Crew Girls Medal Fourth At HOCR

Laila Lapins, Chloe Murphy, Emma Hanley (coxswain),  
Alexa Postiglione, Madeleine Diskin