

**For Immediate Release:**  
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***Parents: Help Your Teens Party Right At Graduation***

Joining Manhasset CASA's *Parents Who Host Lose The Most* Underage Drinking Prevention Campaign, Legislator Judi Bosworth recently met with Manhasset CASA to support the campaign's mission of educating the community to the dangers of underage drinking. Working together, they recommend parents take the time to talk to their teens about celebrating in a fun, safe and legal manner during graduation season.

Legislator Bosworth said, "At this time of year when our children are celebrating important coming of age events, we must do everything we can to help keep them safe. It is our responsibility as parents to know what their graduation plans are and to help them understand how much we love them and want them to be safe. Alcohol and/or drug use, particularly on these nights, can cause irreparable damage that can affect them for the rest of their lives".

Keeping teens safe is key. New research from Liberty Mutual Insurance and SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) shows that 90 percent of teens believe their peers are more likely to drink and drive on prom night and 79 percent believe the same is true for graduation night. Yet, less than one-third of teens say that driving on prom night and graduation night, comes with a high degree of danger (SADD/Liberty Mutual 4/8/10).

Manhasset CASA's Project Director Cathy Samuels stated, "Prevention begins with a conversation. Tell your teen it's unhealthy, unsafe and illegal under Nassau County's Social Host Law to drink alcohol. Research continues to show that parents do make a difference and it just may save their life or the life of another."

With the teen brain still developing and sensitive to alcohol's effects on judgment and decision making, tell your teen about the reality & risks of underage drinking (NIAAA, May 2005):

- Their inhibitions and memory become affected – so they may say and do things they will regret and possibly will not remember doing at all;
- Their decision-making skills are also affected. They may become restless and aggressive. They may be more at risk for having an alcohol-related traffic crash, getting into fights, trashing a house, or making unwise decisions about sex.
- There is loss of physical control too: loss of balance, slurred speech, and blurred vision. Normal activities-even crossing a busy intersection – can become truly dangerous.

Manhasset CASA reminds parents that graduation is not a "time to let go" and teens need their parents just as much as ever. There are many ways to help keep your teen safe and healthy (ONDCP/theantidrug.com):

- **Reinforce Your Expectations:** Throughout their high school years, you've set rules and established the consequences for breaking them. Perhaps you've loosened up on a few rules, like curfew. But be clear—drinking or drug use remains unacceptable. Being an upperclassman has privileges, but it also has responsibilities;
- **Encourage Your Teens To Make Each Moment Count:** Your teens only get one senior year. Let them know you don't want them to miss out on things because of bad choices, like drinking or drug use. One bad choice could change their lives forever;
- **Provide Safe Alternatives:** Parties abound during senior year. Plan chaperoned alcohol-free parties around prom and graduation;
- **Set A Good Example:** Don't let anyone convince you that it's a good idea for teens to drink or use marijuana under your supervision. It sends the wrong message and may lead your teen to make other bad choices.

The Parents Who Host Lose the Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking. It's against the law campaign, was developed by the Drug-Free Action Alliance, and partners with members of the community in order to educate parents and residents to the health, safety and legal consequences of underage drinking. For more information about the campaign or Manhasset CASA, call (516) 267-7548 or go to [www.manhassetcasa.org](http://www.manhassetcasa.org).



**Legislator Judi Bosworth is a proud supporter of CASA's Parents Who Host Campaign which educates parents and the community to the dangers of underage drinking.**

**Pictured Left to Right: Lisbeth Shibley, Executive Director, Manhasset CASA; Legislator Judi Bosworth, LD 10; Cathy Samuels, Project Director, Manhasset CASA**