

The Testing Times

A publication of **drugfreeidaho.org**
working for a drug free culture

Volume 2, Issue 2 October 2009 Published Quarterly

The mission of DrugFree Idaho, Inc. is to create a drug free culture within workplaces, schools, and communities. We focus on preventing substance abuse, enriching families, and positively impacting our community.

IMPORTANT FACT

When a worker is impaired by the use of drugs or alcohol, he or she threatens the safety and well-being of everyone at a worksite. To do your part to protect workplace safety:

- Understand your company's drug-free workplace policy.
- Follow it and set a good example for others by working drug and alcohol free.
- Seek help if you or your co-worker(s) need it.
- Notify management if you observe use of or impairment from drugs or alcohol that could threaten the health and safety of co-workers.

Changes afoot at drugfreeidaho.org

If you haven't already noticed, you may want to sneak a peak at our revamped website, launched in early September.

The biggest difference you may notice is the streamlined content base: instead of navigating through various tabs and sub-tabs, most information is now within a click (or scroll)'s reach!

Let's Dispel Some Common Myths About Workplace Drug Testing

Myth #1: An employee's off the job drug use doesn't affect his productivity on the job.

Many employers think that drug testing is ineffective because it can't distinguish between off the job and on the job drug abusers. The reality is that drug use, either on or off the job, directly affects a company's bottom line. In fact, a single "weekend" drug abuser can cost a company at least \$14,946 per year in lost pro-

ductivity and absenteeism. Studies have also shown that impairment from weekend drug abuse typically extends into the work week, affecting employee judgment, and compromising company safety.

Myth #2: The technology behind drug testing is unreliable.

The pro-drug community would like employers to think that drug testing is unreliable.

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Welcome, Home Instead!

Welcome to one of our newest associates, **Home Instead Senior Care!**

We're pleased to have Home Instead as our partner- not just for their value as an associate, but for what they offer our community here in the Treasure Valley: compassionate, in-home care for elder family members when the little tasks get difficult for them to handle on their own.

If you know someone in need, please consider visiting their website at:

www.homeinstead.com/swidaho



DrugFree Idaho's fun and interactive table at Hawks Memorial Stadium

Event Calendar

- Oct 22 @ 1:00pm: Student Assembly, Mountain View High School
- Oct 22 @ 7:00pm: Video premiere event ft. Milton Creagh, Nampa
- Oct 23 @ 7:00am: Community/Business Breakfast ft. Milton Creagh, Washington Group Plaza in Boise
- Oct 23 @ 10:00am: Student Assembly, Taft Elementary School in Boise
- Oct 23 @ 12:00pm - Red Ribbon Rally ft. Milton Freagh, Boise Shakespeare Festival Amphitheater

For more information on these and other events, see our website www.drugfreeidaho.org

Let's dispel some common myths

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The reality is that when conducted properly, drug testing is always considered accurate. DrugFree Idaho conducts all drug screening through SAMHSA certified laboratories which offer the highest standard of testing available, and require stringent quality controls. A certified laboratory is required to have specific safeguards in place to virtually eliminate the possibility of false positive tests.

Myth #3: Nobody in our industry drug tests, so neither should we.

If the employers in your local industry are not conducting drug testing (which is unlikely), then you would have even a greater incentive to begin a drug free workplace program. Drug testing is a proven method for gaining a competitive edge. If drug users can't get a job at your company, they will likely find work at your competitor down the road. Chances are that many of the employers in your industry currently have drug testing programs in place. If you don't have a program, guess where the drug users are finding work?

Myth #4: I don't need a drug test to tell me if an employee or applicant is a drug user or not.

Many employers have a naïve notion that they can tell whether an employee or applicant is a drug user by just a simple interview. However, the reality is that drug users are often experts at concealing their chemical dependency, and can fool even the best trained chemical dependency counselors. After implementing your drug-free workplace program, you may be surprised when that ideal candidate, who you would never suspect of having a drug problem, fails your company's pre-employment test. If you think drug abuse is not an issue at your company, be sure to disseminate an anonymous survey. You may be surprised by the results.



SPRING '09: GOOD FOR DFI!

Thanks to you, we are making a difference! In Spring 2009, Drug Free Idaho:

- Presented Reach-Out-Now-Teach-In sessions on underage drinking to more than 100 6th graders in local schools
- Held Parenting Challenge classes, with 21 parents completing ten week courses
- DFI sponsored "Bowl Down Drugs" events in Boise, Meridian, Nampa and Caldwell; also hosted the second annual Fan Fest event at Memorial Stadium which attracted approx. 2,500 attendees
- Hosted 3rd annual Starfish Ball, raising over \$15,000 for youth prevention education efforts in the Valley



Parents and kids enjoy a fun afternoon bowling together and learning about drug awareness and prevention at the Bowl Down Drugs event held in March at Caldwell Bowl.

Your generous support allows us to continue these efforts.

Once again, Thank you!



How YOU Can Help Red Ribbon Week & Our Community

It's time for the annual Red Ribbon week celebration! Every year, millions across the nation celebrate in order to raise awareness of drug prevention efforts. We're looking to make this year's celebration the best ever— and that's where we need **your** help.

It's important our community makes this celebration as visible as possible. That's where you come in.

If our business partners would join millions in celebrating Red Ribbon week by wearing red ribbons, red t-shirts, or any other visual celebration—the bigger the better, of course—the more we can show how much we care about our

message to prevent the numerous ills of drug abuse. There are other ways you can help the fight against drug abuse as well: talking to your co-workers, having a public speaker talk at your workplace, or any other number of ways to help contribute.

All studies show that drug abuse cause staggering harm to our communities in various ways, including economically: some estimates show the toll as high as one *trillion* dollars per year. Join us in standing up for our community and taking a stand against drug abuse!