

HEALTHY YOUTH

We are developing local community networks to address substance abuse prevention and healthy living in parishes of each diocese. After each local chapter is trained and shows a solid foundation of coalition building in their community, these local chapter members will be a resource in training and developing coalitions beyond their geographic area by helping other parishes within their diocese, other Orthodox Christian jurisdictions and other faith-based communities. By developing a model for faith-based coalition building, we will establish, train, and lead substance abuse prevention and intervention coalitions across America.

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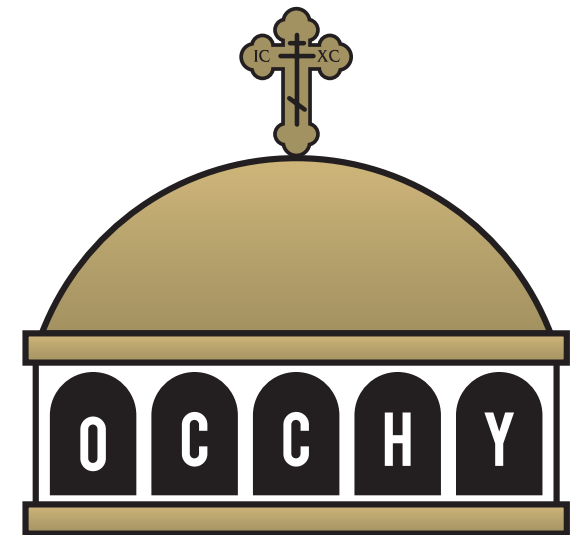
www.HealthyYouth.com

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." - 1 Peter 5:8



OCCHY connects Orthodox Christian Church communities to public and private sector professionals and community advocates with the purpose of creating a healthier environment for our youth. Each local coalition offers and promotes:

- distinctive substance abuse solutions through policy change, environmental design modification and substance abuse prevention tactics
- healthy sexuality and righteous living through awareness, education and mentoring



Orthodox Christian Coalition
for
Healthy Youth

REDUCING SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE

www.HealthyYouth.com

RAISING HEALTHY YOUTH

BY
COMBATING SUBSTANCE ABUSE
ENCOURAGING SEXUAL ABSTINENCE OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE
DEVELOPING RESPECT FOR THE SANCTITY OF THE HUMAN BODY

What is OCCHY?

Orthodox Christian Coalition for Healthy Youth (OCCHY) is a national alliance founded and supported by the Department of Youth and Parish Ministries of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. Fr. Joseph Purpura, Chairman of the Department of Youth and Parish Ministries, and Kathleen Purpura, Youth Consultant and Executive Director of OCCHY, are working with the White House Director of the Drug Free Communities program; meeting with the staff of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) to receive anti-drug coalition training; and working with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Healthy Youth coalition offers communities an opportunity to heighten awareness of how to combat substance abuse, prevent bullying, encourage sexual abstinence outside of marriage, and encourage respect for the sanctity of the human body.

Orthodox Christian Coalitions interested in DFC funding must engage at least one member from each of the following 12 sectors:

- Youth (SOYO member)
- Youth-serving organizations (SOYO advisor)
- Parents
- Media
- Business community
- Schools
- Law enforcement agencies
- Religious organizations
- Civic groups (Order of St. Ignatius)
- Healthcare professionals
- State or local agencies in the field of substance abuse
- Other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse

What Coalitions Do

Since Congress enacted the Drug Free Communities program (DFC) in 1997, Federal grants have been provided on a competitive basis (through SAMHSA) to community-based coalitions serving as facilitators to reduce substance use and abuse.

Coalitions:

- Address factors that increase the dangers associated with underage drinking, binge drinking, prescription medication abuse, tobacco use, illegal drug use, and other substance use and abuse.
- Establish and maintain collaborative efforts among community members within local, state, government and non-profit agencies to address the issues of drug use and actively work to reduce problems associated with substance abuse.

In addition, **Orthodox Christian Coalitions:**

- Address Righteous Living
- Promote Healthy Sexuality
- Address the Issue of Bullying
- Encourage Respect for the Sanctity of the Human Body
- Work to Build Strong Leaders in Body, Mind and Spirit

Our vision is to see each community making positive changes for a healthier environment so our young people will reach their potential and become strong Orthodox Christian leaders.

How Coalition Building Starts

CADCA offers free training to all Drug Free Communities funded coalitions. CADCA and the Orthodox Christian Coalition for Healthy Youth provide resources containing vital information for building a community coalition:

Recruit members from your parish and community to discuss starting a coalition.

Research the Resources page on our website: www.HealthyYouth.com

Assess your geographic area by collecting data. Obtain statistics from law enforcement agencies, health facilities, schools and youth agencies that will help you define the problems in your community. Develop your own surveys or collect data with proven stock surveys.

Build Capacity by running a well-planned coalition building meeting. Invite representatives from important community organizations, engage substance abuse professionals, contact city and state officials and invite a representative from local law enforcement, a business owner, and an educator.

Develop a Strategic Plan by creating a map or model of the problems in your community, by listing out the reasons for promoting these issues, and making a plan to address the problems.

Implement the Plan by using evidence-based methods, policy changes, and other proven practices. To fully realize your plan, use collaborative efforts by involving as many groups as you can to implement each task.

Evaluate the progress by measuring the impact of your coalition's efforts.