



2022

Happy New Year!

**Beyond The Bell
Quarterly Newsletter**

ONE MISSION

THE MISSION OF BEYOND THE BELL IS TO PROVIDE RESOURCES IN THE FOCUS COMMUNITIES, TO EFFECTIVELY PROVIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS, EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS AND/OR RESOURCES WHEN APPROPRIATE AND TO REDUCE SUBSTANCE USE IN YOUTH.

**Opioid Awareness/Sustainability Town Hall Meetings
Rockdale/DeKalb, Savannah and Upson**

DeKalb County STOP Act
**STOP Underage Drinking
Community Event**

Macon-Bibb County
Strong Beginnings

Upson County
**Upson County Celebrates
Another 5 Years of Prevention**



Opioid Awareness/Sustainability

Upcoming Town Hall Events

Please join us for an upcoming Town Hall Meeting at one of the locations below or come to all three! Each event will feature community leaders from the local area who will speak about the current opioid epidemic in our state and local county and what we can do to help protect our children.

What Is An OVERDOSE?

An **OVERDOSE** means having too much of a drug or combination of drugs for your body to be able to cope with and function.

There are a number of signs and symptoms that show someone has overdosed and these differ with the type of drug used. **All drugs can cause an overdose, including prescription medication prescribed by a doctor.**

It is important to know your correct dosage, what drugs definitely should not be mixed and know to seek help if you feel you are not in control of your drug use.

More people die from accidental drug overdoses than auto accidents each year.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF OPIOID OVERDOSE?

- FACE** is clammy to touch and has lost color. Difficulty speaking.
- ARM** is limp. Fingernails or lips have a blue or purple tinge.
- SLEEP** is deep and cannot be woken.
- BREATHING** is slow or has stopped.
- HEARTBEAT** is slow or has stopped.

More information and fact sheets can be found at: www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment/opioid-overdose

Prescription drug use and abuse greatly impacts the health and safety of our community.

- In 2014, almost 2 million Americans abused or were dependent on prescription opioids. (SOURCE: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2014.)
- Every day, over 1,000 people are treated in emergency departments for misusing prescription opioids. (SOURCE: <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/2k13/DAWN127/r127-DAWN-highlights.htm>)

Between 2011-2014, in the past 30 days:

- 49% of people used at least one prescription drug
- 23% of people used three or more prescription drugs
- 12% of people used five or more prescription drugs

(SOURCE: Health, United States, 2016, table 79 [PDF - 9.8 MB], <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/drug-use-therapeutic.htm>)

Prescription painkiller sales, deaths and treatment admissions rates have increased in the United States.

Year	Sales (kg/10,000)	Deaths (per 10,000)	Treatment (per 10,000)
1999	1.5	1.0	0.5
2000	2.0	1.5	0.8
2001	2.5	2.0	1.2
2002	3.0	2.5	1.5
2003	3.5	3.0	1.8
2004	4.0	3.5	2.2
2005	4.5	4.0	2.5
2006	5.0	4.5	2.8
2007	5.5	5.0	3.2
2008	6.0	5.5	3.5
2009	6.5	6.0	3.8
2010	7.0	6.5	4.2

SOURCES: National Vital Statistics System, 1999-2008; Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System (ARCOS) of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), 1999-2010; Treatment Episode Data Set, 1999-2009

Supported by

DBHDD
Office of
Behavioral Health Prevention

GUIDE
Inc.
guideinc.org

Savannah
 March 3, 2022
 6pm - 8pm
 Pennsylvania Ave.
 Resource Center
 425 Pennsylvania Ave
 Savannah, Georgia

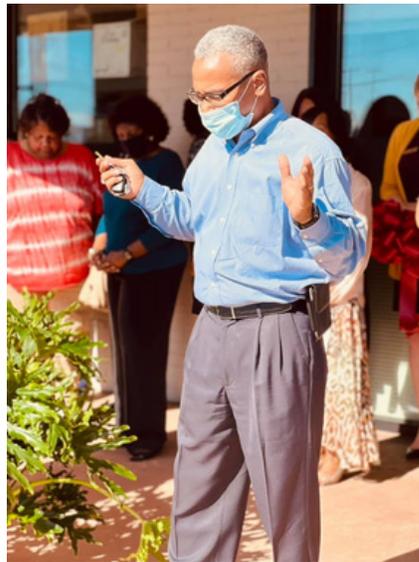
Upson County
 March 17, 2022
 6pm - 8pm
 Thomaston Civic Center
 101 Civic Center Drive
 Thomaston, Ga. 30286

Rockdale/DeKalb County
 May 12, 2022
 6pm - 8pm
 Augustus Lett Center
 1002 Hardin Street
 Conyers, Ga. 30012

Bibb County Program Comes Out Strong

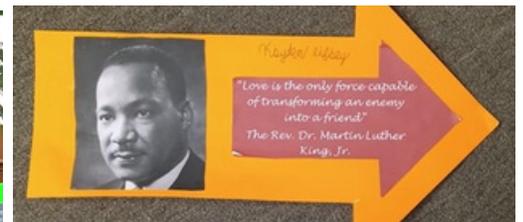


On October 20, 2021, Beyond The Bell held its Ribbon Cutting at the newest location, 3115 Vineville Avenue in Macon. 45-50 local citizens, community leaders and faith based clergy joined Coalition members from Upson County and DeKalb/Rockdale counties to show support for the arrival of Beyond The Bell's prevention programs to Macon-Bibb County



MLK Day Celebration Rally January 17, 2022

Beyond The Bell youth and PC Amanda Smith partnered with teens from Men About Change at the MLK Day Rally held in the Bibb County Commission Chamber. Youth presented to an audience of approximately 100 attendees with posters of their favorite Dr. King quotes.



What To Do When You See Blue

Beyond The Bell, in collaboration with Men About Change, presented the What To Do When You See Blue Town Hall event on January 22, 2022 at Glorious Hope Church in Macon. This important event highlighted the importance of safe interactions between law enforcement and the community, particularly young drivers. Featured speakers for the event included Lt. Reggie Thomas (Bibb Co. Sheriff Dept.); Jeremy Grissom (DA's office, RISE Initiative); Judy Gordon (Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for Bibb Co. Sheriff Office); and Chief Renee Harris (Thomaston-Upson County Fire Department). Attended by approximately 50 community members and Battalion 22 of the Bibb County Fire Department (plus fire engines), the event was a tremendous success.



Botvin Classes Began in October

Botvin classes began in September of 2021, making the December graduates of the class the first to receive prevention life skills classes in Bibb County. 18 middle schoolers and 4 high schoolers received their certificates on December 7, 2021



Beyond The Bell welcomes our newest team member Wanda Johnson as Project Coordinator for Region 6 Upson County.

A native of Thomaston, Ms. Johnson has been an educator/trainer in a variety of capacities and ages for more than 20 years, having previously served as a life skills instructor at Roosevelt Warm Springs (GVRA). She will implement Beyond The Bell programs throughout Upson County. She enjoys walking, good movies and being with her family.



Join Us For This Important Town Hall Meeting on March 17th

BEYOND THE BELL CELEBRATES ANOTHER 5 YEARS OF PREVENTION!

Featured Coalition Member

Constance Dawson, affectionately known as Connie, is a Thomaston native and has served as a faithful Coalition member for Beyond The Bell in Upson County for the past 4 years. Connie worked as a long haul trucker for five years and has traveled through every state in the country except for Alaska and Hawaii! Perhaps more importantly, she drove an Upson County school bus for 27 years - her love for Thomaston's children is evident in all she does. Connie has 2 grown children, 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Her favorite thing to do is DRIVE!

BEYOND THE BELL
Beyond The Bell Presents

UNDERSTANDING OPIOID MISUSE AND ABUSE

Join Us for This Free Community Event to Learn How To Protect Your Family

MARCH 17, 2022 / 6PM-8PM
THOMASTON-UPSON CIVIC CENTER
101 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
THOMASTON, GA. 30286

Learn more about opioid abuse and how it can impact your family from community speakers from Law Enforcement, the Upson County Health Dept. and the Thomaston Fire Dept

Beyond The Bell's focus is on the health and safety of young people ages 9-20 and their parents. Beyond The Bell provides life skills training and other programs to ensure that youth live happy and safe lives and use the tools we provide to enjoy activities that exclude alcohol, marijuana, tobacco and other drugs. We use evidence-based strategies to build skills and support the needs of young people and thus reduce barriers to their success.

Director's Corner

HELLO EVERYONE!

ON FEBRUARY 2ND, BEYOND THE BELL CELEBRATED TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS LONGEVITY AND TO OUR MANY PARENTS, COALITION MEMBERS, BOARD MEMBERS, PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, STAKEHOLDERS AND OF COURSE OUR STAFF FOR THIS SUCCESS.

WE HAVE NOW EMBARKED ON ANOTHER FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITIES IN THE FORM OF FUNDING UNDER THE STATE'S NEW INITIATIVE, PARTNERS IN PREVENTION PROJECT (PIPP). WE ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL AS THIS FUNDING ALLOWS US TO CONTINUE OUR WORK IN HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE NOT TO BEGIN USING ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUGS OR TO HELP THEM GET OFF IF THEY HAVE ALREADY EXPERIMENTED WITH IT. AS WELL, WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME OUR NEW COMMUNITY MACON-BIBB TO OUR CIRCLE OF COMMUNITIES WE SERVE AS WE CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS IN ROCKDALE/DEKALB, UPSON, AND SAVANNAH. WE HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED IN MACON-BIBB AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE PARTNERS, COALITION MEMBERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS THAT HELP US HELP CHILDREN. WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO MEN ABOUT CHANGE LOCATED AT GLORIOUS HOPE CHURCH ON NAPIER AVE. THIS IS A PHENOMENAL ORGANIZATION IN THEIR WORK WITH CHILDREN AND WE ARE EXTREMELY FORTUNATE THAT THEY HAVE ALLOWED US TO BE A PART OF THEIR WONDERFUL PROGRAM. THANK YOU DR. CLOWERS AND DR. GLOVER FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME TO US. WE CANNOT THANK OUR LONG-TIME COALITION MEMBERS IN ROCKDALE/DEKALB AND UPSON COUNTIES AS THEY CONTINUE TO WORK TIRELESSLY WITH US. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THEIR CHILDREN ARE NOW ADULTS, THEY HAVE COMMITTED TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH US TO KEEP OUR EFFORTS ON TRACK. PLEASE REMEMBER THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES LIFE UNFAIR IS THE DELUSION THAT IT SHOULD BE FAIR! KEEP UP THE GOOD FIGHT.

SANDRA L. DEAN



DeKalb County
Rockdale County
1500 Klondike Road. SW
Ste A102
Conyers, Ga. 30094
(770) 285-6037

Upson County
300 Adams Street
Thomaston, Ga. 30286
(706) 973-9165

Macon-Bibb County
3115 Vineville Avenue
Macon, Ga. 31204
(478) 259-7566

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