



## Media Release

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### East New York Students Dramatize Dangers of Drugs and Alcohol at Alpha School Event

#### National Drug and Alcohol Facts Assembly *SHATTER THE MYTHS*<sup>SM</sup>

On Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, students from Brightpoint Health's Alpha School in East New York participated in [National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week<sup>SM</sup>](#) (NDAFW), a week-long observance, organized by the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) (NIDA) and the [National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism](#) (NIAAA) that brings together teens and scientists to counteract the myths about drugs and alcohol that teens are exposed to from the internet, TV, movies, music and their peers.

As part of the NDAFW celebration, students wrote, directed and acted in a play illustrating how choices they make lead to different outcomes – teens taking drugs under peer influence vs. teens making the right choice and keeping their peers out of harm's way. The message culminated with a recital of the Alpha School's philosophy of strength, unity and love. Over 25 students took part in the event.

"It is so powerful to see young people tell other young people, 'Don't do drugs. Don't get involved in this. You can graduate and you can have a better life.' You all did a great job and we are all proud of you," said Chief Jeffery Maddrey, NYPD Brooklyn North Task Force, praising the students for their dramatic endeavor and the message it was communicating.

The students and teachers held an interactive session and dialogue based on the [National Drug & Alcohol IQ Challenge](#) prepared by NIDA. To further support the message, the students filled out "*I want to SHATTER THE MYTHS<sup>SM</sup> because...*" pledge cards with their own phrases on why they want to be a part of this national cause.

#### About The Alpha School

[The Alpha School](#), which serves the economically challenged areas of East New York and Brownsville, is a GED program, taught by New York City Department of Education teachers. Through the Alpha School program, students are encouraged to become productive members of the community and be prepared for college or vocational training. Services are also available for young people struggling with substance abuse or with substance abuse in their families. The Alpha School became part of Brightpoint Health in 2014.

#### About Brightpoint Health

[Brightpoint Health](#) is a leading nonprofit provider of integrated health care and social support services to New Yorkers, especially those challenged by poverty, discrimination and lack of access to health care. With almost 800 employees and locations throughout the five boroughs, Brightpoint serves 40,000 people with over 130,000 health care visits annually. Brightpoint is known for providing the highest quality care and improved outcomes while treating each and every patient with the kindness and respect they deserve—like family.