



Media Release

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Alpha School Students Participate In National Drug & Alcohol FactsSM Week

East New York teens join national effort to SHATTER THE MYTHS^{TM,SM} on drugs and alcohol

Students from Brightpoint Health's Alpha School in Brooklyn are joining forces with other teens and experts from across the United States as part of "[National Drug & Alcohol Facts WeekSM](#)" (NDAFW). The week-long observance, organized by the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) (NIDA) and the [National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism](#) (NIAAA), both part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), takes place Monday, January 25th through Sunday, January 31st. NDAFW links students with scientists and other experts to counteract the myths about drugs and alcohol that teens are exposed to from the internet, TV, movies, music and their peers.

On January 28th, as part of the NDAFW celebration, Alpha School students will learn about the harmful effects of substance abuse and show their support for the program's objectives by filling out the "I want to shatter the myths because..." pledge cards provided by NIDA. They will also receive education and awareness booklets prepared by NIDA and NIAAA. The school is also planning a special lunch assembly with Chief Jeffrey Maddrey from NYPD Brooklyn North Task Force and Digna Layne, Director of [Dawn of Hope, MCI](#) and Community Development and Outreach Coordinator at [Good Shepherd Services](#).

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Event at The Alpha School

- Date and Time: January 28, 2016 | 12pm – 2pm
- Venue: 2400 Linden Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11208
- Special student assembly with:
 - Chief Jeffrey Maddrey, NYPD Brooklyn North Task Force
 - Digna Layne, Director of Dawn of Hope, MCI and Community Development and Outreach Coordinator at Good Shepherd Services

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.

According to NIDA sponsored study on teen drug use, [Monitoring the Future 2015](#), about a third of American high school seniors report using an illicit drug sometime in the past year, and more than ten percent report non-medical use of a narcotic painkiller. Many teens are not aware of the risks associated with substance use and abuse. Their participation in National Drug and Alcohol Facts WeekSM will encourage Alpha School students, and teenagers across the country, to have open conversations and share accurate information with their peers that will lead to informed choices about drug and alcohol use.

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.