

June 5, 2008

## Truth Be Told Theater presentation of "Now Hear This" - Notes on Community Response

### Eleven groups were asked 2 questions:

1. What is your strongest response to this performance?
2. What are your ideas for things we can do this summer to address these issues?

<i>Group</i>	<i>Responses</i>
1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Appreciate the honesty; tell us how to be safe instead of "just say no."</li><li>2. Host more inter-generational discussions where adults show up with actual open minds, not just lip service.</li></ol>
2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. This realness was refreshing.</li><li>2. Open a teen center or some other communal space that is open, confidential, safe; hosting more programs like this one.</li></ol>
3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How do parents set limits but keep communication open?</li><li>2. Host discussions with panel groups made up of youth speaking to adult audiences, possibly called "Youth Speak".</li></ol>
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Didn't share response.</li><li>2. Asked if the "Conversation Café Agreement" handouts could be made available for every family to put out on their dinner tables each night. (Kara's comment: what a great idea! What about publishing a laminated version of this and handing it out at events or free at bookshops and such?)</li></ol>
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Interesting to see the dissonance between usage/addiction and the "nice" island image.</li><li>2. Parents can practice what they preach. If we as parents use (including drinking alcohol) and then tell our kids "no, don't do that", what message are we sending?</li></ol>
6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. This was gutsy; great to see this level of risk in honesty. But also questions like, "How do parents address this?" and "How do we say NO when society is tolerant?"</li><li>2. Parents can start telling their kids that they care no matter what.</li></ol>
7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Great to see teens willing to take risk, dialogue to make changes happen.</li><li>2. Please do this kind of event more than once a year! Interview younger kids, adults, and seniors and then dramatize those surveys, too. Host a monthly theater presentation.</li></ol>
8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Appreciate the honesty, but what about meth, aderol (sp?), homelessness, exclusion?</li><li>2. Host artist workshops, music programs, silk screen, life skills workshops. Create a Safe Driver program so kids don't drive drunk or even ride their bikes drunk. Get kids volunteering. Open Community Center. Do more marketing on events like this.</li></ol>
9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How do we address the fact that the "high" you get sky diving just does not ever equal the "high" of LSD, etc? How can we address addiction/use issues as a matter of safety rather than judging it as "bad"?</li><li>2. Re-open the Crux.</li></ol>
10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. This is so complex. No pat answers. Where does the perception of tolerance come from? Why do kids think we are tolerant when all the parents at our table are not?</li><li>2. Host more plays because this is much more effective than data on a page. Focus on the positives. Perform this play in front of the whole student body. Host cross-generational forums more often.</li></ol>
11	How do we respond? Can we refine these surveys to find out things like: commuter student or island resident; label self as experimenter or stoner; what kind of drugs used including meth, lsd, etc. Do another play to cover other drugs like meth and lsd, address homelessness and class issues. Get more teens involved. Do more marketing to tell teens how they can get involved.

Resources for programs/projects already in process:

Email Maryam to get involved in Youth Adult Dialogue happening 3 times a year. [MaryamSteffen@yahoo.com](mailto:MaryamSteffen@yahoo.com)

Tome Jo (aka TJ) is developing a program driven teen space and will share info via Youth Council.

Youth Council will soon have regular office hours and space open at the "Old n Funqi" space.

Sallen Group is looking for stories of your experiences to post on a site at Choices123.com.