



GATEWAY OUTREACH CENTER

800 Pro Drive • P.O. Box 488

Celina, OH 45822-0488

Telephone (419) 586-4030 FAX (419) 586-3268

*"Assisting
Mercer County
in Prevention
and Treatment
of Alcohol
and other
Drug Abuse"*

*EAP
Drug
Screening
Domestic
Violence*

*Equal Provider
of Services*

*A Non-profit
Organization
E.E.O.*

*Supported by
your local
Mental Health
and Alcohol
& Drug
Abuse Levy.*

January 17, 2006

To Whom It May Concern,

We were privileged to have as our speaker, C.J. Hitz for a weekend retreat called STAR (Students Teaching About Resistance). This retreat is planned for the middle school aged students in Mercer County. High school and college students mentor the younger students by showing how they can have lots of fun without drugs and alcohol. As director of the weekend, I appreciated C.J.'s willingness to spend extra time outside of his speaking sessions to talk to the students and adults who had further questions or comments on his program. He is friendly, approachable and a great speaker. Here are some comments from middle school students who attended STAR Weekend. In response to filling in the blank on:

I learned.... (students said)

- many things that will help me in life.
- how the media influences us.
- that my parents may actually know what I'm going through.
- that all decisions effect me in the future.
- that music influences you.
- that being nice to people is a good way of makin' friends.
- that parents are not always perfect and you have to give them a chance.
- music you listen to can affect you.
- that the music we listen to affects us more than we think.
- the media can effect us in every way.
- that girls are (or should be) lambragenes and sometimes you have to talk to friends which will help you solve your problems.
- many things about drugs during C.J.'s thing.

Students also filled in the blank, This helped me...(with the following responses)

- because I know I'm an individual not a copy.
- realize how bad drugs and alcohol are.
- to realize the reality of drugs.
- realize that I am a great person being me and nobody's going to change me.
- because now I can stand up against the drug people.
- not to be sucked into being what the media tells me to be.
- to watch what I'm listening to.
- communicate better with my parents.
- know what is okay and not okay to watch and listen to.

As you can see from the comments, C.J.'s message is not only enlightening and relevant, but taken to heart by the students. We recommend C.J. Hitz and his "Beneath the Surface" series.

Sincerely,

Paulette Strine, BA

Community Support, Case Manager