

STAR Quarterly

This time around - We're bringing the good stuff to you!

Check out our newest pics!

Presented by:



Funds provided by:



Family & Community: hand in hand

We've put our whole-hearts into the new STAR chapter here at Prevention Links. Family and community are two factors that never evolve without the other. Therefore, we are partnering to strengthen several communities in Union County; Elizabeth, Plainfield, and Roselle Park.

Our vision at Prevention Links is to create a healthy, drug-free and safe environment by strengthening communities and families to build the assets our youth need to succeed. We provide a wide variety of high-quality programs and services related to substance and violence prevention.

Quick! Turn the page!



Family Circle

Strengthening Families

We proudly pledge to (re)vitalize families in Elizabeth, Plainfield, and Roselle. Grandma's and 'Pa's, Aunties and Uncles, Cousins, Older Siblings, and of course the classic Mom and Dad's are all pitching in to raise our community's children. The idea of *Family* is no longer the image we carry from the 1960's, with Mom, Dad, and son Beaver. We have a new kind of family, rapidly redefining the boundaries. One of our goals is to uplift and encourage your family, no matter how nontraditional or unique the role you carry.

There is no such thing as the perfect parent or the parent who is doing everything wrong. We all come from different walks of life, not to mention, different sets of kids. Strengthening Families is not just for the parents, but it also pours into the lives of your kids; teaching them how to communicate more effectively, how deal with life's challenges, and discovering who they are as individuals.

The skinny on me: I am the second eldest of nine kids and acted as responsible adult through much of my life. I am so grateful for the life lessons I learned, but so deeply understand the weight of a family, no matter how wonderful or hard. I would not trade my experiences for anything because I learned irreplaceable values like loyalty, unconditional love, respect, and honesty.

The qualities I just mentioned are unique to me, and I am sure there is a set equally as unique to you. That is exactly why you are the perfect candidate to join our weekly discussions in the Strengthening Families Program. The program is meant to strengthen what you already do well as parents, and to offer tools to help you re-invent "how you're currently dealing".



I promise that an evening with us, once a week for a few months will add to your family's list of happy memories. We provide free dinner every week, a time to fellowship with your kids, and many more surprises. On behalf of Prevention Links, I look forward to the moment we meet!

God bless, andrea gonzalez

Where are we now?

Currently, we are half way through one round of Strengthening Families. With several families meeting in Plainfield at the Second Street Youth Center every Monday night, the fun never stops!

Good News!

If you live in **Roselle**, we want you to bring your family to a new round taking place at the Anthony Signorella Center starting September 16th, every Wednesday 6-8:30 pm for 14 weeks. Free Childcare and Dinner!

Call Shawnta to join the fun! 908.445.8043

Community (PRO)Action



Elizabeth: SOAR parent group, Prevention Links, and the Institute of Music partnered to put on a Poetry Café with 10 students performing their own pieces after completing the All-Stars and Poetry program



Plainfield: The Queen City. Don't miss our monthly meetings at the YWCA!

**"WE ARE MOTHERS, DAUGHTERS,
FATHERS, AND SONS, EVERY RACE, AND
EVERY BACKGROUND JOINING
TOGETHER AS ONE GROUP..."**

Elizabeth

Elizabeth is a dynamic city, rich with culture and diversity descending from many neighborhoods and community members. The STAR grant seeks to capitalize on this by creating a community group, completely grass-roots; from the people for the people of Elizabeth. Prevention Links has partnered with The Institute of Music, the Special Opportunities for Achievement & Reawakening (S.O.A.R.) program, and the SOAR Parent Group to successfully launch the initiative.

Building upon "Family" as their central focus, the SOAR Parents' goal is to reframe their concerns into positive action, creating events that will give back to and strengthen their community. All parents of SOAR students at School 23 are invited to attend these monthly meetings of fellowship, refreshments, and community decision. **Contact Andrea to join! 732.381.4100**

Plainfield

Plainfield, "The Queen City" of New Jersey, will have its voice heard through the many mouthpieces of its dedicated community members. Prevention Links is partnering with concerned community members that would like to strengthen Plainfield. We are mothers, daughters, fathers, and sons, every race, and every background joining together as one group to strengthen Plainfield.

The community group (yet to be officially named) has a vision to invest in the Plainfield community. The goal is to plan community events for Plainfield based on what the group decides.

We are still in the first stages of developing this group. All Plainfield members are invited to attend our monthly meeting. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Plainfield YWCA (232 E. Front St). **Contact Andrea to join or collaborate! 732.381.4100**



We want to hear from you!

We love to chat, email, break bread, laugh, and just plain have fun – so please do not hesitate to contact us!

"TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS,
WE MUST NOT ONLY ACT,
BUT ALSO **DREAM**;
NOT ONLY PLAN,
BUT ALSO **BELIEVE**"

langston hughes

ph 732.381.4100

fx 732.381.0140

aroberts@preventionlinks.org

www.preventionlinks.org



35 Walnut Avenue
Suite 17
Clark, NJ 07066

Check us out on www.preventionlinks.org!