

FROM THE DESK OF...

LIANNE FORMAN



On October 25th, I was invited to present at the Annual Bergen County Prosecutor's Office SNAP Conference on our prevention education programs in Jewish schools across the country.

At that conference, I was privy to statistics and information on drug seizures in Bergen County and the prevalence of Fentanyl being laced into many substances, not just heroin.

Fentanyl now accounts for the majority of opioid-related overdoses in the United States. It's potency is dangerous, with two milligrams of fentanyl (which is equivalent to two grains of sand - see picture above for scale) being considered a lethal dose.



While it is not common, it is not unheard of that Fentanyl is found in marijuana - whether by design or accidental cross-contamination. According to the DEA, Fentanyl is showing up everywhere and we cannot rule out the possibility of it being found in marijuana as well.

As we teach about the dangers of marijuana, regardless of its legality for users over the age of 21, talking about its potency and risks, this is also something we must keep in mind and warn about as well.

Insights in Prevention

November 2023

STAFF WELCOME!

We are excited to share with you that, once again, we have expanded our team as part of our efforts to meet the ever-increasing need and demand for our services.



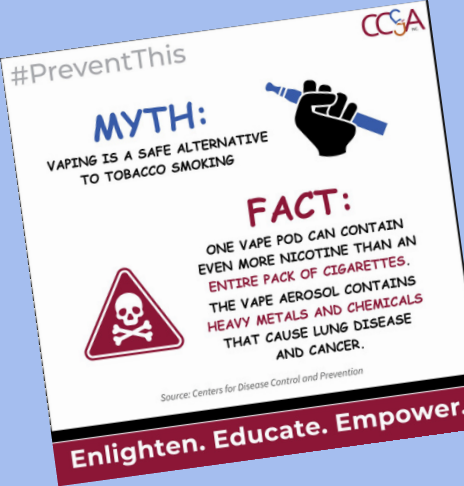
Jesse Wright, who has been working in the addiction field since 2020, has joined CCSA as a Program Manager. He is a Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse counselor (CASAC), Certified Peer Recovery Advocate (CRPA), and Certified Addiction Recovery Coach (CARC). Jesse previously worked as a recovery coach at Mountainside Treatment Center. His passion for recovery work comes from his own experience with addiction and his years of recovery. Jesse feels a deep connection with the work CCSA does because of his Jewish roots and sobriety journey. A graduate of Millsaps College, he is currently pursuing his Masters of Social Work at Wurzweiler School of Social Work. Welcome Jesse to our team!

Elul Campaign

2023

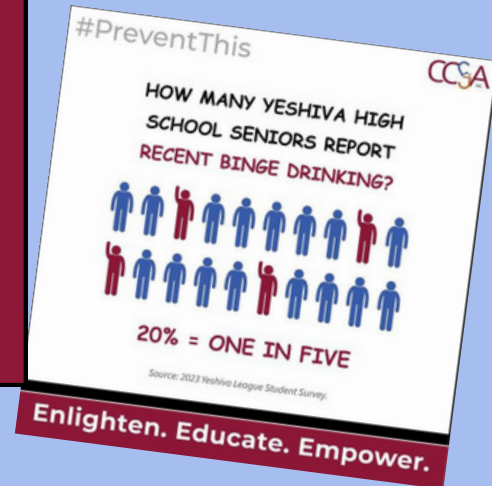
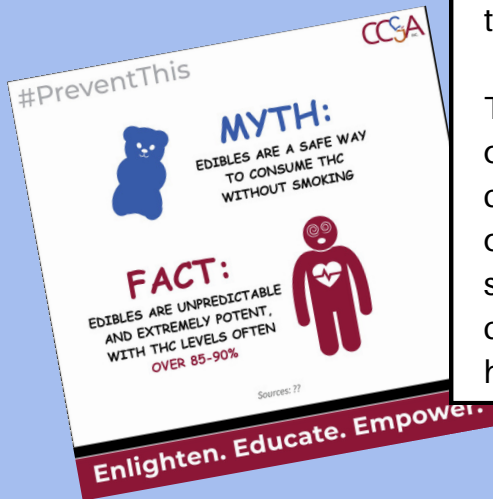
Click below to support our efforts

DONATE



#PreventThis was the theme of our annual fundraiser in August. With smoke shops opening next door to family restaurants, social media glamorizing alcohol, vapes being sold in “fun” flavors, and edibles sold in look-alike packaging, all designed to entice young users, substances are clearly being marketed towards our children.

Thanks to our 241 donors, we raised over \$173,000 during our campaign to continue our mission to educate all of our children about the harmful effects of substances, how to best cope with the challenges they might be facing, and how to make healthy life choices.



On Israel...



This past summer, CCSA took a major step in the expansion and development of our programming by joining **Ohel**. Ohel, which has always been a primary social service agency within the Jewish community, is engaged extensively in mental health and wellness education with preschool/elementary and middle school students. The synergies with our programming, where we both teach about resilience, coping skills, and making healthy choices, were obvious from the start.

In keeping with their focus on mental health, Ohel has developed a broad roster of resources to help children, teens, and adults cope with the war in Israel. Visit www.ohelfamily.org to access webinar recordings, pamphlets, and support group information that have been a source of comfort and support to many during these challenging times.

Laughing away stigma...

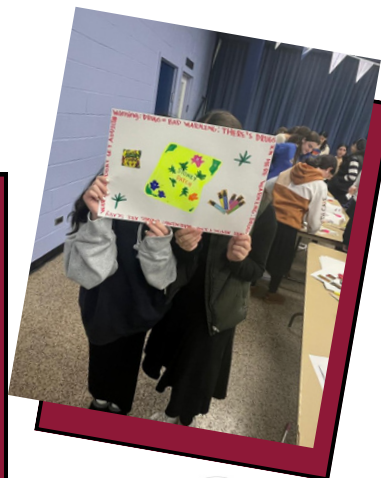
On October 25th, CCSA was among three organizations highlighted at the annual **Gregg's Gift Comedy Night** at the Gotham Comedy Club. Like CCSA, Gregg's Gift was founded based on a family's personal experience with substance use. For the last 13 years, the organization hosts a comedy night in memory of Gregg Grossman, who tragically lost his life to addiction. All proceeds of the event are dedicated to organizations that share their mission to shatter the stigma around addiction and positively impact the lives of those struggling and their families.

Our own Jesse Wright took the stage to share his recovery journey experience. After being entertained by the featured comedians, the crowd of over 200 guests were thrilled by a surprise set from Jerry Seinfeld!



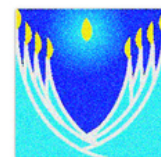
Jesse Wright on stage!

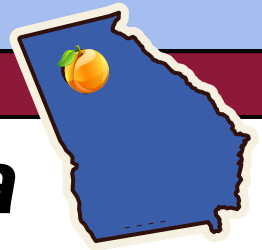
Where we've been so far this school year...



SCHECK
HILLEL COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

jewish
leadership
academy





CCSA spotlight on...Atlanta

For the second year in a row, we partnered with **Atlanta Jewish Academy** to present to their 6th - 12th graders, as well as meet with parents to discuss the important topics of current drug trends and how to communicate with their children about substance use.

Sylvia Miller, guidance counselor at Atlanta Jewish Academy Middle School, shared "For our small, southern Modern Orthodox day school we have observed CCSA's commitment to personalize our programming to meet the needs of our parents and students. All our students have informed us that they feel connected to the speakers and their personal stories of resilience and recovery."

Pam Mason, guidance counselor at AJA High School added "It is clear that CCSA is built on building and nurturing relationships with parents and students, providing our community with a safe place to get real about the issues that surround substance use and healthy lifestyle choices."

New Support Group

siblings

Meeting for siblings* of those struggling with substance use or addiction



Monthly Meetings on Zoom

To participate please email us at:
info@jewishccsa.org

*Must be 16 years of age or older

You Are Not Alone

Support Group for loved ones of those struggling with substance use or addiction



Meetings every other Wednesday
8:15 p.m. (ET) via Zoom

For more information, email us at:
info@jewishccsa.org

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