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## HC DrugFree is keeping Howard County *In the KNOW!!!*

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### **Before The Clock Strikes Midnight This New Year's Eve**

Last December, with only a few days remaining in the 2017 calendar year, HC DrugFree told you that Howard County was reporting 56 fatal overdoses and 169 non-fatal overdoses. This year, we're heading into the final 2018 calendar days at less than 50 fatal overdoses, but with more than 180 non-fatal overdoses.

As we wait for the clock to strike midnight this New Year's Eve, and we wait for the final 2018 overdose reports to be made public, we at HC DrugFree aren't celebrating. Instead, we are reflecting upon the pain overdoses are causing Howard County families as well as families across this State and country.

More than 50 deaths and the increasing non-fatal overdoses remain unacceptable to us and to many of you. These are sons, daughters, husbands, wives, and friends. Families and the community experience the painful ripple effects of these overdoses - fatal or not.

We'd like to use this opportunity to thank Howard County's first responders for the challenging jobs they perform throughout the year and the many ways they go above and beyond to try to keep us all safe.

What can you do? PLEASE help HC DrugFree continue educating our Howard County youth and adults in 2019. Contact us to volunteer and donate now to become a Friend or Sponsor at <http://www.hcdrugfree.org>.

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### **Mother May Have Died After Touching Son's Drug Paraphernalia**

HC DrugFree continues to warn parents, grandparents, educators, and others not to touch, sniff or taste what they suspect could be drugs. These drugs not only can kill your children/students, but they can kill you.

Talk to the EMS team if you have an overdose at your house or place of business to properly remove all drugs and paraphernalia. Use extreme caution!

[Click here](#) for more information about a family's tragedy.

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**Time Is Running Out...  
Hurry To Make Your Donation!**

# Invest TODAY In Howard County Youth And Our Community's Future!

HC DrugFree is a 501(c)(3) so your donations are tax deductible and very appreciated.

**Donate online** or mail checks to HC DrugFree, 5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206, Columbia, MD 21044.

For more information, contact HC DrugFree's Executive Director, Joan Webb Scornaienchi at [Joan@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Joan@hcdrugfree.org) or 443-325-0040.



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## Store Your Medications In A Safe Place

Want to help give someone the gift of peace of mind this holiday season and throughout the year? If Santa didn't bring it, HC DrugFree has a free medication storage box waiting for you or your family.

**Ring in the New Year by locking up your meds!** Help keep friends and family from having easy access to your medications and *don't be their drug dealer*.

Email us at [Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Admin@hcdrugfree.org) for more information or to schedule a time to come to our office for pickup.

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## Teens Can Start The New Year With HC DrugFree

HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC) is open to all Howard County high school students and meetings are held at The Barn (The Columbia Association's Teen Center) in the Oakland Mills Village Center from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The next two TAC meetings will be held on **Monday, January 14 and Monday, February 11**. HC DrugFree follows the Howard County Public School System's [weather cancellation policy](#). If school is closed or evening events are cancelled, TAC will not meet.

Registration forms can be found on the TAC page at <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council-1/> Free. Refreshments provided. Teens must RSVP to [Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Admin@hcdrugfree.org) before each meeting.

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## Register For FREE Parenting Classes

Howard County parents/guardians of 9 to 14 year olds are invited to join HC DrugFree and the Howard County State's Attorney's Office for our next *Guiding Good Choices* 4-week parenting program.

Feedback from the fall 2018 sessions was amazing, so hurry to register!

Adult participants will learn the skills to reduced the risk that their children will use drugs. After completing the program, families will be able to: **Influence** their children to help prevent drug use and other risky behaviors; **Develop** clear family guidelines and expectations about drug use; and **Teach** children how to stay out of trouble, keep their friends and still have a good time.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, **March 5, 12, 19 and 26**. Adults are expected to

attend all 4 sessions. Unless otherwise notified, all meetings will be held at the Elkridge Branch of the Howard County Library from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The flier and updated information can be found on HC DrugFree's website at <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/events/>. Registration is now open.

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

HC DrugFree's team wishes you and yours a safe and happy New Year and all the best in 2019.

As always, if you drink or use drugs, please don't drive. Be sure celebrations with friends and family begin with selecting designated drivers.

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