

# PRESS RELEASE

Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition  
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## MARCH IS PARENTING AWARENESS MONTH

### Jackson Parenting Resources

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JACKSON (March 13, 2008) – Parenting can be a tough, but rewarding job. Youth have many pressures facing them in today’s world including drug use, peer pressure, and economic and societal problems. A few Jackson County services have come together to increase community awareness about positive parenting resources for March, Parenting Awareness Month.

Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (JCSAPC), Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission (MSSAC), Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson (BBBS), and Supportive Techniques and New Directions (S.T.A.N.D.) have joined forces to provide education and opportunities for parents to prevent risky behaviors through modeling.

“Parenting is a tough job and resources are limited,” says Michael Hoover of S.T.A.N.D. “Each parent and child relationship is unique and can make parenting difficult, we differ in personality, talent disposition, strengths and weaknesses, but we function as parents the best we know how.” S.T.A.N.D is a peer run support group for parents who are experiencing difficulty with their children, regardless of age. Members of the group empower each other to lead by example and with consistencies.

Big Brothers Big Sisters also recognizes the need to support parents in the community. BBBS provides mentors to children ages 5-18 to help provide additional support. “Mentoring gives the children involved an opportunity to share a positive friendship with another adult role model,” states Erica Vogel, Executive Director of BBBS.

JCSAPC and MSSAC are working together with the above agencies and other community partners to create a support system for community agencies around substance abuse prevention. “JCSAPC provides information and education on drug use in Jackson County to help parents and community members be better role models and strengthen current substance abuse prevention efforts,” says Kelsey Winston, JCSAPC Coordinator. Parents can arm themselves with knowledge on the signs of drug use, prevention programs, where to go for support, and simply how to discuss the issue with their children. Winston states that, “Additional parenting resources can be found on Michigan’s *Prevention Network* website, [www.preventionnetwork.org](http://www.preventionnetwork.org). “

Celebrate Parenting Awareness Month by leading your children to avoid substance abuse and other risky behavior through modeling and identifying resources that will help you be the best parent possible. If you need help or parenting resources call Central Michigan 2-1-1 to find out more about these programs and others offered in our community.

#### **More information about:**

- *Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition* and its activities, please contact Kelsey Winston at (517) 796-5133 or via email at [kwinston@uwjackson.org](mailto:kwinston@uwjackson.org)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters and its activities, please contact (517) 784-7181
- S.T.A.N.D and its activities, please contact (517) 789-1200
- Michigan’s Parenting Awareness Month, please visit [www.preventionnetwork.org](http://www.preventionnetwork.org) and click on the “Parenting Awareness Michigan” tab at the top of the website.
- Central Michigan 2-1-1 and its services, please dial 2-1-1 from a land-line or (866) 561-2500