

FOCUS

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About Us

FOCUS promotes school and community partnerships for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other adolescent risk behaviors. The program is based on a student led approach and seeks to promote youth involvement in the planning of prevention activities.

Register by October 4 to attend the final 2017 FOCUS Rally!!!

[Click here to register for the final Rally in Andalusia!](#)



2017 RALLY DATES ANNOUNCED!

- ✓ **Tuesday, September 12, 2017**
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
- ✓ **Wednesday, September 20, 2017**
Shocco Conference Center, Talladega
- ✓ **Wednesday, October 11, 2017**
First Baptist Church, Andalusia



Calling ALL FOCUS Facilitators Summer One Day Training

Tuesday, July 11, 2017
Clanton Conference Center - AL Power Company
2030 7th Street South - Clanton, AL 35046

STI-PD Offered

Visit www.thefocusprogram.com For more information and to register

Our Partners





Please be sure to register or update your school for the 2017-2018 school year!

You can register/update your school by clicking on the following link - <https://thefocusprogram.com/registration/>. Be sure to include the number of FOCUS members for this school year when you update your information!

We are here to help and look forward to working with you and your students. Good luck and thank you for trusting that youth are capable young leaders. We can do it all with them, not for them.

If you no longer wish to be a FOCUS school please send me an email so that I can remove you from our list.



"Difference Maker"

We are in the process of rolling out a new award program! You will now be able to nominate your FOCUS Facilitator as a "Difference Maker!" The "Difference Maker" award program will take the place of the FOCUS School of the Year.

The Facilitator chosen as the "Difference Maker" will receive a \$1,000 cash to be used however they choose. The "Difference Maker" will be chosen based on their school's activities, their level of involvement with FOCUS, and the creation of successful prevention activities and events.

In order to be considered for the Difference Maker Contest your Facilitator must be nominated by April 13, 2018.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1.The FOCUS Facilitator must be nominated using the Difference Maker form, which can be found on our website at www.thefocusprogram.com.
- 2.The winner must be registered as a FOCUS Facilitator (register at www.thefocusprogram.com/registration).

Judging Criteria:

- 1.The school's FOCUS activities that were led by the Facilitator.
- 2.The Facilitators level of involvement with FOCUS throughout the year.
- 3.The Facilitator has demonstrated dedication and commitment to creating successful prevention activities and events.

Winner Will Receive:

1. The selected Difference Maker will receive \$1,000 cash to be used however they choose.

For more information on the program please contact Sue Jones at sjones@thefocusprogram.com.

For information on nominating a Facilitator as a difference maker please visit our website at www.thefocusprogram.com or contact April Freitag at afreitag@thefocusprogram.com



Out of the Darkness Alabama Walk

Walk Date: 11/05/2017

Walk Location: Heardmont Park - 5458 Cahaba Valley Rd - Birmingham, AL

Check-in/Registration Time: 11/05/2017 at 1:00 pm

Walk Begins: 2:30 pm

Walk Ends: 3:30 pm

For more information, please contact:

Contact Name: Dana Roberts

Contact Phone: 205-369-5297

Contact Email: ootdwalk.al@gmail.com

When you walk in the Out of the Darkness Walks, you join the effort with hundreds of thousands of people to raise awareness and funds that allow the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss.

Thanks to Walkers and Donors like you, AFSP has been able to set a goal to reduce the annual suicide rate 20% by 2025.

For more information and to register for walk please [click here](#).



Operation Birthday Wish Set to Expand!

from The Clanton Advertiser

"A community service project started at Chilton County High School's FOCUS

dub could soon be adopted by service clubs across the state.

CCHS graduate Ada Ruth Huntley presented information about Operation Birthday Wish to Focus facilities from across the state during a training in Clanton on July 11."

[To view the complete article from The Clanton Advertiser please click here.](#)

Follow FOCUS on social media at /alabamafocus:



Be sure to tag us on all your school's activities by using the hashtag #ALABAMAFOCUS!



The Shelby County Drug Free Coalition is a program of Family Connection. Family Connection is a non-profit 501 C 3.

Their mission is to reduce substance abuse among youth and over time, among adults by addressing the factors that increase the risk of substance abuse and promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse.

Please like, follow and share the coalition Facebook page with your friends & family:

<https://www.facebook.com/shelbycountydrugfreecoalitionAlabama/>.



Each year, the Department of Children's Affairs works with all sixty-seven of Alabama's CPCs to complete a Needs Assessment. The Alabama Children's Policy Councils were able to determine the top 3 issues that are affecting Alabama's children. #1 Substance Abuse, #2 Parental Involvement and Family Engagement and #3 Mental Health. Please see the map for a breakdown of the top needs. Also included is a snapshot of the top 3 needs that were reported from CPC's from across the state.

[Map of Needs for AL Counties](#)

[Snapshot of Top Three Needs](#)



Welcome to our new FOCUS Schools!

Center Point High School
Jefferson County

Challenger Middle School
Madison County

Colbert Heights High School
Colbert County

Escambia County High School
Escambia County

Marshall County Alternative School
Marshall County

Pickens County College & Career Center
Pickens County

T.R. Miller High School
Escambia County

Talladega County Central High School
Talladega County

Williams P8 School
Madison County

W.S. Neal High School
Escambia County

And thank you to the schools who updated their registration!

B.B. Comer Memorial High School
Talladega County

Chilton County High School
Chilton County

Daphne Middle School
Baldwin County

Eden Career Technical Center
St. Clair County

Etowah County Career Technical Center
Etowah County

Francis Marion School
Perry County

Handley High School
Randolph County

Jasper High School
Walker County

Lawrence County Center of Technology
Lawrence County

Lincoln High School
Talladega County

Munford High School
Talladega County

Nichols Lawson Middle School
Talladega County

Oxford High School
Calhoun County

Rutledge Middle School
Jefferson County

Sidney Lanier High School
Montgomery County

Sylacauga High School
Talladega County

Talladega High School
Talladega County

Tanner High School
Limestone County



The 8th Annual National Conference will be held February 8-9 at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama.

The Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation produces the Annual National Peer Professionals' Conference to provide training for current and future Peer Program Coordinators. The conference attracts speakers, presenters, counselors, teachers, social workers, and nonprofit administrators from around the country.

This Conference provides a forum for adult Peer Program Coordinators to train, collaborate, and share best practices for Peer Helper Programs.

[For more information and to register please click here.](#)



STAY CONNECTED:



The FOCUS eNewsletter provides links to articles and websites with information on current events, research, funding opportunities and other items related to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other adolescent risk behaviors. The inclusion of this information does not imply endorsement by FOCUS and the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position, policies or views of FOCUS.