

Teen Life Maze



What is it?

A teen life maze is like a large game board of rooms designed to let teens experience the consequences –both positive and negative –of life choices. Each year the CHILL members create a new theme that is carried out in the maze. As teens enter the maze they are given a “occupation card” that explains what career they have and the money they have to potentially gain or lose with the experiences they might encounter in the maze. Then they navigate through the maze by drawing consequence cards to discover some of the real effects that the choices can bring. The maze rooms are staffed by volunteers from over 20 local organizations and agencies, as well as, members of our adult and youth substance abuse prevention coalitions. Teens might have to visit the Health Dept and find out what contracting an STD might mean while others might be caught for drinking and driving and have to appear before a judge in the courtroom. The rooms are created to focus on meaningful reality checks and present interactive educational information through role playing. The facts are presented in a nonjudgmental way, only focusing on the consequences of their “choices”.

Who may attend?

The maze will be open to middle school students from 5:30 until 7:30 and to high school students from 7:30 until 9:30. Each group may attend the “After Party” as a reward for going through the maze.

What could be experienced in the Maze?

Our maze covers five primary areas: Substance Abuse, Teen Pregnancy and STDs, Domestic Violence, Career Choices and Financial Outcomes and the Power of Making Positive, Healthy Choices.

What is the response from teens attending?

“It makes me think twice before making some of the choices I made during the maze.”

“That really happens to people?” WOW!



Who sponsors the Teen Life Maze?

The Teen Life Maze is an awesome community collaboration with many sectors of our community. Over 160 volunteers join CHILL and HEY! Coalitions and the Drug Task Force to sponsor this annual event. Our partners include



Carlisle School
Carter Bank and Trust
Charity League of M/HCo.
Citizens Against Family Violence
Collinsville Printing Co.
Department of Social Services
Focus On Youth
For the Children
MHC Coalition for Health & Wellness
Henry Co. G.E.M.S.
Henry County Parks and Recreation
Henry County Schools
Stone Ambulance Service
VA National Guard
MHC After 3

Henry County Sheriff's Office
Henry/Martinsville Health Dept.
Martinsville City Police Department
Martinsville City Schools
Martinsville Commonwealth Attorney's Office
Mental Health Association
New College Institute
Patrick Henry Community College
Patrick Henry Correctional Unit # 28
Piedmont Community Services
Virginia Department of ABC
YMCA
21st Court Services

Some of the above information was adapted from the Web site for

North Star Youth Partnership www.northstaryouth.org

Contact: Diane DeLong, Program Director - North Star Youth Partnership
928.704.7214 or from their Web site

A book "**Build It, They Will Come**" is available from them for \$25. This is the best money we spent when we started our life maze 6 years ago.

For more information on our experiences with the teen life maze, contact

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