



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

November 6, 2006

### **"When Skittles Aren't Skittles": A Drug Education Workshop for Parents & the Community**

Elyse Harney Real Estate joins the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau to sponsor a special evening discussion for parents and community members on teen substance abuse. "When Skittles Aren't Skittles – The Facts on Current Trends in Teen Alcohol and Drug Use" will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2006, at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School, in Room 133. The program is 7:00 – 8:30 pm and is open to all parents (regardless of the age of their children), teens and pre-teens and community members at no charge. The workshop is in memory of Garrett Harney, age 20.

Presenters include Laura Minor, M.H.S., PA, CPP-R Prevention & Wellness Program Coordinator at the Wheeler Clinic, in Plainville, CT and Matt Eakin, Vice-President of External Affairs at the Mountainside Treatment Center in Canaan, CT. There will also be a young adult currently in treatment joining the discussion. Ms. Minor has been in the field of prevention for over 20 years and Mr. Eakin has worked with hundreds of young adults in the field of treatment and recovery.

A national survey by the Center for Substance Abuse Research showed that while more than one-fourth of teens say that alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are their number one concern, only 12% of parents perceive this to be true - citing social pressures instead to be the number one concern of teens. Issues at the presentation to be addressed will include current drug use trends including pharmaceutical abuse (such as cough medicines, aka "skittles"), factors which place youth at risk for use and abuse, signs of abuse, protective factors and interventions parents and communities can take to lessen the risks. For more information, please call the HYSB at 860.824.4720.