



## 2017-2018 Annual Report

The Safe Community Coalition (SCC) celebrated a successful year of programming during 2017-2018. Our theme was “Communication” and we at the SCC had a lot to communicate about!

We transitioned to a new website and web address, [www.mcleanscc.org](http://www.mcleanscc.org), and reinvigorated our newsletter for more effective communication. Our communications chair started regularly posting articles of interest on our Facebook page and through our Twitter account (@mcleanscc). The SCC strives to be a community resource for all mental health issues related to our youth.

The SCC board also added several new members and felt that the time was right to update the group’s bylaws to better reflect our mission and board composition. This update will carry us forward for several years and strengthens our board and organization.

We launched headfirst into the year with our signature **Sixth Grade Ethics Days**, which welcomed more than 1,400 sixth graders from 11 area elementary schools for half-day programs at Temple Rodef Shalom. The program was updated with relevance for today’s societal issues and provided take-home messages for tweens to use as they navigate through their adolescence. At the end of each of the Ethics Days, all the students made pledges to be persons of integrity.

Our **Youth Advisory Council (YAC)** is a group of area high school students who are trained to meet in area middle schools with approximately 1,100 eighth graders and help them prepare for the challenges of high school. Our

YAC answered questions, provided support, and encouraged balance in traversing the next four years.

Our capstone program this year was our **annual spring parenting event**, which this year featured Dr. Wendy Mogel speaking about her new book, “Voice Lessons for Parents: What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Listen.” The SCC organized five book talks in area schools so that parents could discuss the book in small groups. The May 2<sup>nd</sup> event at Temple Rodef Shalom was enjoyed by more than 400 parents who left with concrete suggestions on how to foster more effective communication with their kids.

In addition to our signature programs, the SCC continued to facilitate communication between local groups such as PTA leaders, school counselors, and members of the mental health community. These meetings allow for collaboration across among the various community sectors to share best practices, provide support, and to discuss current concerns within the student population of McLean.

Without your help, none of these programs would be possible! We are grateful for the amazing support of our community partners and sponsors in assisting to fund, market, and sustain our programs. Thank you all for your continued support and desire to work together for our youth.

## 2017-2018 SCC Officers

Brad Kuebler, Co-President

Amber Syed, Co-President

Rachel Hunter, Treasurer

Laurie Plishker, Secretary/Communications Director

Dr. Melissa Sporn, Past President and Chair of Mental Health Committee