



2019-2020 Annual Report

The Safe Community Coalition (SCC) celebrated a successful, but short, season of programming during 2019-2020. Our theme was Social Media Wellness, and we were able to offer some programs and events prior to Covid-19 and stay-at-home orders.

The SCC sponsored a **documentary screening** of “LIKE: A Documentary About the Impact of Social Media on our Lives” twice during the early part of the school year. More than 400 parents and students attended the screenings of LIKE at Langley High School and McLean High School. Each screening featured a Q&A discussion with local expert Dr. Cliff Sussman.

The SCC’s popular signature program, **Sixth Grade Ethics Days**, was held only once due to Covid-19. We welcomed two elementary schools for the half-day program that also included lunch. The program was held at Holy Trinity Church again in 2020 and featured two sessions: first were small group discussions of real-life scenarios focused on making ethical decisions, with a second session, led by the education team of the Anti-Defamation League, focused on how to be an ally in a bullying situation. Parents were sent information on the day and were encouraged to talk about how ethics plays a part in decisions throughout life.

Our **Youth Advisory Council (YAC)** is a group of area high school students who are trained to meet in area middle schools with approximately 1,200 eighth graders and help them prepare for the challenges of high school. This year, our 72 YAC students spent time in several training sessions learning how to answer questions, provide support, and encourage balance in traversing the high school years in what we call **Middle School Forum**. Due to Covid-19, Middle School Forum was not held at Cooper or Longfellow Middle Schools in person, but MSF volunteers are actively working to provide the program virtually to middle schoolers. In addition, YAC students have been sharing their views as “quaranteens” on our website.

SCC’s **annual spring parenting event**, which was to feature Ana Homayoun speaking on social media wellness in late April, was also cancelled. SCC is working with Ana Homayoun on a fall online presentation. Also cancelled was our **Administrator’s Supper** event to celebrate SCC’s 25th Anniversary.

Concerned about the toll that the stress of distance learning, social isolation, economic concerns, the inability to plan for the near future have taken on adults and kids, our Mental Health Advisory Committee created a **video series for parents**. Topics included coping

strategies, grounding techniques, and keeping children engaged. All are posted on our website.

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.

The SCC continued to build coalitions in the community by meeting with members of the **faith community** at a fall gathering focused on mental health first aid training. Rev. Heidi Eickstadt of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke spoke about the mental health offerings at her church and about training that volunteers received. Officer Scott Davis of the McLean Police Precinct and the SRO at McLean High School spoke about SRO mental health first aid training and the impact it has had on his interactions with students. The usual spring meeting was not held due to Covid-19.

SCC programs focused on student safety and wellness during prom and graduation season was also not held due to the pandemic. We hope to bring Prom Cards (notes in corsage and boutonniere boxes promoting safety during prom night) next year.

Project Sticker Shock was organized in the fall for homecoming season. This is a nationwide program where police officers and local students attach stickers to cases of beer and to bottles of wine reminding all of the laws regarding alcohol purchase and consumption. SCC volunteers and local students met with Officer Cherry from the McLean Precinct and were able to attach stickers to beer and wine at the McLean Giant as well as at 7-Eleven.

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.

2019-2020 SCC Officers:

Elizabeth Hale, President
Laura Przepyszny, Treasurer
Laurie Plishker,
Secretary/Communications

SCC Board Members:

Brad Kuebler
Maria Barnett
Julie Hohl
Emily Yosmanovich
Gina Manning
Amber Syed
Kelly Marino
Margaret Alessi

Melissa Sporn