Teens Encouraged to Have a Safe Halloween by Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County

OAKTON, VA, October 13, 2011 – Halloween is a festive time for children and youth, but the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC) wants to make sure teens stay safe and alcohol-free. The UPC and its Countywide Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking task force are distributing to each of the county's public high schools graphic posters with the message: "Don't end up a sick pumpkin and ruin your night! Have fun and enjoy a safe and alcohol-free night."

"Halloween has become a popular night for some teens to abuse alcohol and roam neighborhoods with friends, and we want to encourage our youth to have fun without alcohol," said UPC Executive Director Diane Eckert.

Eckert also noted that "The scariest part about Halloween is that it also has become one of the most deadly because of drunk drivers, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration."

The Halloween flyer also will be available on the UPC's website for parents, teachers, students and others to distribute (see www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org).

UPC is a nonprofit organization made up of more than 50 community partners and members, including the Fairfax County Public Schools and the Fairfax County Police Department. It is partially funded with a Drug Free Communities Support Program federal grant administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

For more information, visit www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org or contact Becky York, UPC communications associate, at communications@unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

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