Investing in Our Youth—The Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition (SCSDFC) needs your help! Substance abuse is an undeniable issue in Steele County, with 19% of it’s youth reporting use of alcohol in the past 30 days. The overall use of marijuana for grades 6—12 rose from 7% in 2010 to 9.6% in 2013 according to Minnesota Student Survey Data; however, the work of the SCSDFC to lower these statistics is producing positive results. Ninth grade students 30 day alcohol use has been reduced by 5% in the last 6 years. They need our community’s support to sustain this prevention momentum. SCSDFC has initiated the following activities and programs:

• Successful Passage of Social Host Ordinances
• Installation of Drug Disposal Boxes
• Project Northland Alcohol Prevention Curriculum in Schools
• Implementation of Life of an Athlete in Owatonna School
• Successful Passage of Tobacco Free Park Ordinances
• Volunteers Donating 9,322 Hrs of Service Since Oct 2011
• Volunteers Donating 9,322 Hrs of Service Since Oct 2011

With your dedication in the form of a donation, we can continue to prevent youth substance abuse in Steele County and sustain the Coalition until the next possible SAMHSA funding can resume in October 2016. To donate, click the Go Fund Me link below.

https://www.gofundme.com/SteeleSDF

No Stranger to the OPD—On March 22nd, the drug task force had eyes on Robert Schirmer for suspected possession of methamphetamines. During a subsequent vehicle stop, Schirmer’s passenger, Heather Saurer, was arrested on an outstanding warrant. A search warrant was signed to search Schirmer and his vehicle. The search did not reveal any drugs—so he was let go. The car was held for further investigation. Detectives brought in Kash, OPD’s drug detection dog who “alerted” to his handler that drugs were in the car which prompted detectives to search again. Stuffed under the seat was a bag containing 30 grams of methamphetamines. Later in the day, Schirmer was in the Law Enforcement Center lobby and officers took custody of him. Schirmer, also on conditions of release to abstain from drugs and alcohol, refused to provide a urine test. Schirmer was transported to the Steele County Detention Center and a detailed search of his clothing revealed 1.8 grams of methamphetamines. Robert Schirmer, age 50, of Owatonna, was formally charged with First Degree Controlled Substance—a felony that carries a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison.

Visit Ends in Burglary & Domestic Assault Charges—On Sunday, March 20th, Officers responded to 1611 North Cedar Avenue for a report of a domestic assault. When officers met with the reporting party and victim, they learned that she was sleeping and woke to the doorbell ringing and when she saw that it was her ex-boyfriend and the father of her child—Anthony Francis, she hesitated to answer. After Francis saw her through the window and continued to ring the doorbell, the victim finally answered. She stated that Francis came into the home without consent and questioned who was in the home. He grabbed her and threw her against the counter. Francis left after friends of the victim came out and witnessed the altercation. Officers made contact with Francis and asked him to meet at the Law Enforcement Center and he later turned himself in. Anthony Francis, age 24, was formally charged with Burglary—a felony and Domestic Assault—a misdemeanor.