



Inner City Youth Golfers' Incorporated

Press Release

For Immediate Release

“Say No To Drugs – Say Yes To Education, Culture & Golf”

Riviera Beach, FL (October 20, 2007) - All across this country, our youth are increasingly getting into trouble for their involvement with drugs and indeed causing drug related crimes. According to the most recent 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, “youths who participated in activities during the past year were less likely to have used drugs than youths who did not participate in activities.” “Among youths aged 12 to 17 who participated in two or more youth activities (for example, band, sports, student government, or dance lessons), 10.4% had used an illicit drug in the past month” prior to participating in the survey.” “Among youths indicating one or no youth activities in the past year, 17.9% reported past month illicit drug use.”

Youth substance abuse always leads to serious problems, including the development of delinquent behavior, anti-social attitudes, and health-related issues.” These problems not only affect the child, but can also influence the child's family, community, and ultimately society. Palm Beach County Sheriff, Ric Bradshaw like other law enforcement executives across the country have stated many times that “early childhood drug prevention” will curtail the number of criminal incidences associated with the use of drugs in any given community. Staying in school and playing the sport of golf have also helped. As ICYG Founder Malachi Knowles has reflected from time to time on his past, “I am very happy that my mom and dad kept me involved in church activities, participating in plays, in school almost every day of each school year and permitted me to shag golf balls at the Everglades Country Club, Palm Beach, Florida at an early age of ten to earn my little spending money.”

In 2001, Inner City Youth Golfers', Inc. instituted a discussion series called “greenside chit chats” which are used during their practice sessions to convey “positive life choices” to our young golfers. ICYG National Advisory Board Chairman Jim Thorpe has continued this series of talks along with such other Golf Professionals as: Gary Player, Michelle McGann, Calvin Peete, Jim Dent; Maria Brous, Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.; James Garvin, Jr., Golf Course Specialists, Inc; Lt. Jeffery B. Jackson, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office; Gordon Brown, Sr., San Diego Inner City Junior Golf and others.

While it should be apparent as an example that “illicit drug use” is perhaps the worst choice that our youngsters can make, we must participate in saving them from the “evils of our neighborhoods.” Is it too much to commit ourselves to the everyday life of our children and perhaps host “greenside chit chats” before or after golf activities even if you only take fifteen minutes on subjects that teach our kids the life skills that you know will prepare them for the many challenges of life, said Jim Thorpe?

Junior golfers, isn't it much simpler, cheaper and more enjoyable to get your golf clubs, a bucket of golf balls and practice the fundamentals of golf than it is to cause a drug related crime and be put away, sometimes for life? Do not be led away from the enjoyment of practicing and playing the “sport of golf” which was first played at “Bruntsfield Links, Edinburgh, Scotland, in A.D. 1456.” We “old timers” ask you to please: “Say No To Drugs – Say Yes To Education, Culture & Golf.”

Thanks to our parents and supporters for making this activity a success.

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