



## Neighborhood Coffees 2011

Join your neighbors, a discussion leader, and local high school students to talk about the pressure that young people face regarding underage drinking.

Neighborhood Coffees are designed to facilitate dialogue between adults and young people about community issues, and to foster strong, supportive relationships throughout neighborhoods in Bernards Township. This year's theme is "**It's 21 for a Reason**," as we focus on the constant pressure that young people face to participate in underage drinking. According to the 2009 American Drug and Alcohol Survey, the average age that Bernards Township students take their first drink is 14.6 years. Alcohol dependence is directly correlated to the age of first use, and 45% of people who begin drinking by age 14 will experience alcohol related problems at some point in their life. Neighborhood Coffees will examine our community's beliefs about underage drinking; explore how our decisions affect our family and friends, and decide how we can work together, as neighbors, to direct our intentions towards healthy community growth!

Everyone can contribute to the success of our youth. It's not just the responsibility of families, schools, agencies or other institutions – though they all have important roles. Whether you are a grandparent, a neighbor, or a friend, you can make a positive impact on the young people who live in your community. Come join us in this thought provoking discussion!

**If you cannot make a coffee in your neighborhood, please join us at a general town coffee on one of the following dates:**

- **March 21st at 7pm** – Covenant Chapel Reformed Episcopal Church – 127 W. Oak Street
- **March 23rd at 6pm** – Bernards Township Community Center – 289 S. Maple Avenue
- **March 28th at 7pm** - Somerset Hills YMCA – 140 Mt. Airy Road

**For more information about the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse, please visit our website at [www.bernardsalliance.org](http://www.bernardsalliance.org) or call 908-204-2523.**