



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Prevention Leadership Team Receives National Safety Council “Teen Safety Award”**

**DUPAGE COUNTY**—Today, the DuPage County Prevention Leadership Team (PLT) is pleased to announce it has received the Teen Safety Award from the National Safety Council (NSC). The Teen Safety Award recognizes an individual or organization working to improve teen safety and save lives.

The NSC identified the PLT because its efforts have had a measurable impact on protecting teens.

“Since 2011, the Prevention Leadership Team has made remarkable strides in protecting teens in DuPage County,” said Morgan Cihak, NSC program manager. “Through its work, residents have been educated on teen substance use and mental health issues, with incredible results and support from the community.”

The top goals of the PLT are reducing substance use and improving mental health of DuPage County residents 18 and younger.

“We appreciate the National Safety Council recognizing the progress of the PLT and their work to support our youth,” said Karen Ayala, DuPage County Health Department Executive Director. “We want to help teens make smart choices today, so they can be wise decision makers as adults tomorrow.”

According to the Illinois Youth Survey, since the PLT was formed eight years ago, alcohol and prescription drug use has declined among DuPage County high school students.

“While we are grateful to be recognized by the National Safety Council, we will continue to work with our partners to keep DuPage County youth safe,” said Jordan Esser, Health Department Community Initiatives Coordinator.

To learn more about the PLT, please visit <http://www.dupageplt.org/>.

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### **PLT organizations**

360 Youth Services  
Benedictine University  
Breaking Free  
Carol Stream Police Department  
Downers Grove Township  
DuPage Metropolitan  
Enforcement Group  
DuPage County Health Department  
DuPage Federation  
DuPage Probation Office  
DuPage Public Defender’s Office  
DuPage Regional Office of Education  
Gateway Foundation  
General Federation of Women’s Clubs  
Glenbard High Schools  
Hanover Park Police Department  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
Linden Oaks  
Lions Club International  
Mariano’s Pharmacy  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
Naperville North High School  
National Guard  
Northeast DuPage Family and  
Youth Services  
Northwestern Medicine  
Outreach Community Services  
Parents and Teen Together  
Robert Crown Center  
Rosecrance  
Samaritan Interfaith  
Serenity House  
Strategic Prevention  
Teen Parent Connection  
WeGo Together for Kids  
Winfield Police Department  
Woodridge Police Department

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