

Tributes and Contributions

JANUARY - MAY 2021

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If you have donated and your name does not appear in this list, please contact Alicia Smith at asmith@prevented.org

Tributes In Memory Of

Jeffery L. Campbell
Hill Vision Services

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Patrick MacDonald
Margaret McCoy

Samella Rice
Andrea Shanker

Greysen Mikal Sweeney
Cynthia Smith
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Trista Warfield

Tributes In Honor Of

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Kim Clay
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Jill McCarthy
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Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Behavioral Health
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Saint Louis Mental Health Board
St. Louis County Children's Service Fund
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Getting to the Core of PreventEd • Elevating Teen Voices: Pooja Reddy • Topgolf Event • Celebrating 40 Years of TI • Zero-Proof Zoirée • Peer Support in Franklin County

Zero-Proof Zoirée: 100% Fun, 0% Alcohol

By Annie O'Donoghue

Sans Bar St. Louis's first virtual event, the Zero-Proof Zoirée, was a success with over 100 tickets sold!

I kicked the night off with a zero-proof cocktail demonstration of the "Strawberry Zipper." I sent out the recipe before the event so guests could mix along with me and enjoy their drink during the event.

Scott Pinyard, creator of This Naked Mind and our featured speaker, spoke about how to quite the "stories" in our heads. After Scott's talk, attendees had their pick of seven incredible breakout sessions with wellness and zero-proof influencers from across the country, including Chris Marshall, founder of Sans Bar.

Comedians Evan Williams and Dina Hashem got the crowd laughing, and the event wrapped up with zero-proof beverage giveaways. This latest iteration of Sans Bar St. Louis is just one more example of how much fun and connection you can have in an alcohol-free environment.

The Zoirée spread the Sans Bar vision to twelve states, a U.S. territory, and Canada. Thank you to everyone who supported the event! Stay tuned for our next Sans Bar event. . . in person!! 🍷



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date event information and registration: prevented.org/events

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

The newsletter of PreventEd

the
key

Getting to the Core of PreventEd

By Nichole Dawsey



Nichole Dawsey
Executive Director

Besides getting a new name, logo, and website, the rebrand provided us with the opportunity to honor our past and contemplate our future. During the discovery phase of the process, we asked staff, Board, funders, and other stakeholders to reflect on who we are, and who we want to be. We gleaned valuable insight that shaped our brand identity and led us to double-down on our mission of prevention and education.

And now we have decided to tackle a part of the organization that is a bit "meh": our Core Values.

I detest our current values. Why? Because, as of this writing, our "values" aren't really values; they are a list of things we do – not things we are. Put another way, they are a litany of non-differentiators that are plugged into grant applications. They don't describe the culture that is PreventEd.

We are about to change that.

Since late last year, the PreventEd team has engaged in surveys, conversations, and focus groups about our culture, about "us," as we winnow down a long list of attributes to a select few. I am sad to report that many of my favorites were jettisoned early in the process. But I am thrilled to report that we are close.

No matter what words our staff selects, there is a certain indescribable *je ne sais quoi* about PreventEd. We are a community of learners that love us some professional development.

We take our work seriously, but we don't take ourselves seriously (as evidenced by our use of memes). We poke fun at each other. Don't believe me? Come see the cat poster with my face on it.

It is this "certain something" that led us to be recently recognized as a Top Workplace by the St. Louis Post Dispatch for the ninth year in a row. And because we realize that each team member has a life outside of work, we have been named as a 2020 Best Place to Work for Women by the Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis.

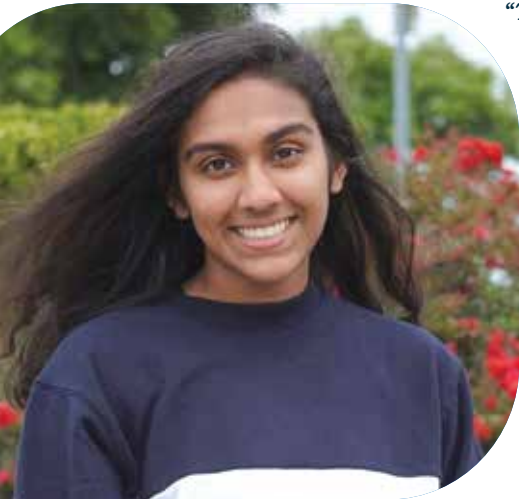
As I reflect on what the PreventEd team accomplished during the dumpster fire that was 2020, I am struck by an overwhelming sense of pride at the team spirit that has prevailed. Sure, we have our fair share of passive aggressive email chains and Zoom fatigue. But we also have a culture that cares deeply about one another, celebrating life's joys and pains in meaningful (and sometimes awkward) ways.

Whatever the words we use to describe the PreventEd community, I know one thing's for certain: I am honored to lead this damn team. . .pardon my French. 🍷



Pooja Reddy

By Jaime Hoff



“The Opioid Crisis Takes
Thousands of Lives
Every Year.”

We’ve all seen the headlines. They’ve faded some in the past year as other news took over, but the crisis hasn’t gone anywhere. And it’s hard to know what to do when a problem is this big. Where do you start? What will work? Who do you ask to help?

“Who?” has an answer. You ask teenagers to help, and in St. Louis you go to Pooja Reddy.

Pooja is a senior at Lafayette High School. She’s active in sports and an excellent student. She’s quick to smile and has a great laugh. But don’t let that fool you. Pooja is a dynamo and she is also one of PreventEd’s best allies in the community.

When Pooja learned that opioid misuse was impacting a member of her family, it was a startling wake-up call. The shock of it hitting

so close to home was tremendous. Pooja took that energy and started a Naloxbox project in St. Louis County.

Naloxboxes provide convenient and anonymous access to lifesaving naloxone while also reducing the stigma that surrounds substance use disorder. Pooja worked with PreventEd staff and the St. Louis County Public Health Department to place these boxes in high risk locations around St. Louis County.

Pooja didn’t stop there. In January she joined Hear Us, PreventEd’s annual teen advocacy experience. She trained and prepared to talk to her legislators about legislation that would finally give Missouri a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). She had video calls with her legislators and made the case for how a statewide PDMP would be another tool in our toolbox for fighting this crisis. With the efforts of Pooja and her peers, the PDMP was signed into law on June 10 with Governor Parson’s congratulations to Pooja and the other teens.

And Pooja is still going. She’s working on new community awareness and legislative projects, joined our youth coalition, ElevatEd, and is the newest member of PreventEd’s Board of Directors, serving as the Teen Representative. She will give voice to the reality of teen lives.

Excellent work, Pooja, and welcome aboard! 

Following a year of lockdowns, PreventEd is excited to announce our first in-person fundraiser of 2021 at Topgolf Chesterfield!


2021 Topgolf Tournament

Tuesday, August 10, 2021 • 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Topgolf, 16851 N. Outer 40 Road • Chesterfield, MO 63005
www.topgolf.com

Topgolf is a one-stop golf entertainment super-spot, open to all ages and skill sets! Bring your own clubs or borrow theirs, challenge your friends, and come prepared to have a ball. The covered, open-air but air-conditioned patio means that rain and the hot August sun won’t affect the fun.

The afternoon includes two rounds of play, a delicious lunch, a silent auction with wonderful themed baskets and loads of

prizes and gifts. Individual tickets are \$150 and a team/bay of six players is \$900. Sponsorships are still available, please check the website at prevented.org/topgolf2021 for additional information and to purchase tickets. Contact Alicia Smith at asmith@prevented.org with questions.

We cannot wait to see you on the 10th! 



Peer Support in Franklin County

By Terisha Friedmann

PreventEd’s Certified Peer Specialist program is a free service offered in Franklin County supported through a rural health initiative. The program focuses on supporting the prevention, treatment, and recovery of opioid and other substance use disorders.

A Certified Peer Specialist has walked the path of recovery from a substance use disorder and is certified by the state of Missouri to support others in their own recovery journey. PreventEd has three Peer Specialists serving the Franklin County area, and they’ve hit the ground running since the program began in February. The peer support model provides numerous benefits to communities, including:


- Reducing substance use
- Reducing hospitalizations associated with substance use
- Decreasing overdose deaths
- Improving quality of life and health
- Inspiring hope that people can and do recover

The Franklin County team is engaging with new community partners like Mercy Hospital - Washington, BJC Missouri Baptist Hospital - Sullivan, Franklin County Treatment Court, local coalitions, and providers to create a strong treatment and recovery network. In the next six months the team anticipates partnerships with additional agencies and to increase community access to telehealth services.

The work of PreventEd’s CPSs is about meeting clients where they are on their recovery journey, and recognizing that path is different for everyone. Our passion is empowering people to make positive life changes. Our office is open Monday through Friday,



9am to 5pm, but we know that emergencies do not always happen at convenient times. Reach out to our team at any time and we will provide assistance.

If you or someone you know is in need of peer services in Franklin County call 314-246-9788 or email us at cps@prevented.org to receive access to a peer specialist. Peer support can be provided in numerous ways, including face-to-face, virtually, or on the phone, depending on what’s most convenient for each client. 

TI Celebrates 40 Years

By Leah Schaefer

Teen Institute celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, and did it virtually! We had a group of 25 teenagers from all over the St. Louis area (and even one from North Carolina), participate in 2 full days of substance use prevention and advocacy trainings. All of the information they learned will hopefully be brought back and dispersed to their schools and communities.



SAVE THE DATE! Kendra Scott Shopping Event November 3-4, 2021

Shop until you drop and PreventEd receives 20% of the purchase when a special code is used. Includes purchases in store (Frontenac) and online. More information to come!



PDMP Bill Signed at PreventEd

PreventEd teen advocates, MO Gov. Parson, MO First Lady, Teen Advisor Jaime Hoff and Exec. Director Nichole Dawsey are all smiles following the signing of Senate Bill 63, creating a statewide prescription drug monitoring program. Thank you teen advocates for the needed push past the finish line!