

Celebrating twenty years 2002–2022

# **Promoting Positive Healthy Choices for Youth!**





## Celebrate with us!

Twenty years of "Promoting Positive Healthy Choices for Youth" is a pretty awesome accomplishment. Thank you, to the many, many individuals, organizations, partners, businesses and especially youth, who have helped the Raymond Coalition For Youth reach such a milestone to celebrate.

Our mission is to empower the community to promote positive youth development and reduce youth substance use and suicide risk.

Our vision is to build a strong Youth-empowered community

Our RCFY Goals are simple:

- 1. Increase community partnerships and collaboration.
- 2. Reduce substance misuse.

We use a Strategic Prevention Framework for success and listen to our young peoples voice to guide our work. We are data driven, meaning we can track our success and identify the areas that are in need of more support.

This work is only made possible because we do it together. RCFY works to break down silos and encourage people to work together to have a greater impact. Working together we are much stronger and far more effective.

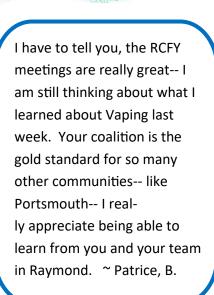
Please enjoy this book. It highlights our work for the past year and showcases the many people who are involved. RCFY is not one or two people, it is community. To quote our Youth Action members, "RCFY is family, the place you love to come because you are supported and feel safe."

On behalf of RCFY, thank you for your support and for being an RCFY advocate, ambassador, supporter and so much more to our kids. You are appreciated beyond words,

Celeste Clark,

Executive Director, Raymond Coalition For Youth







## **Positive Adult Interactions and Relationships**

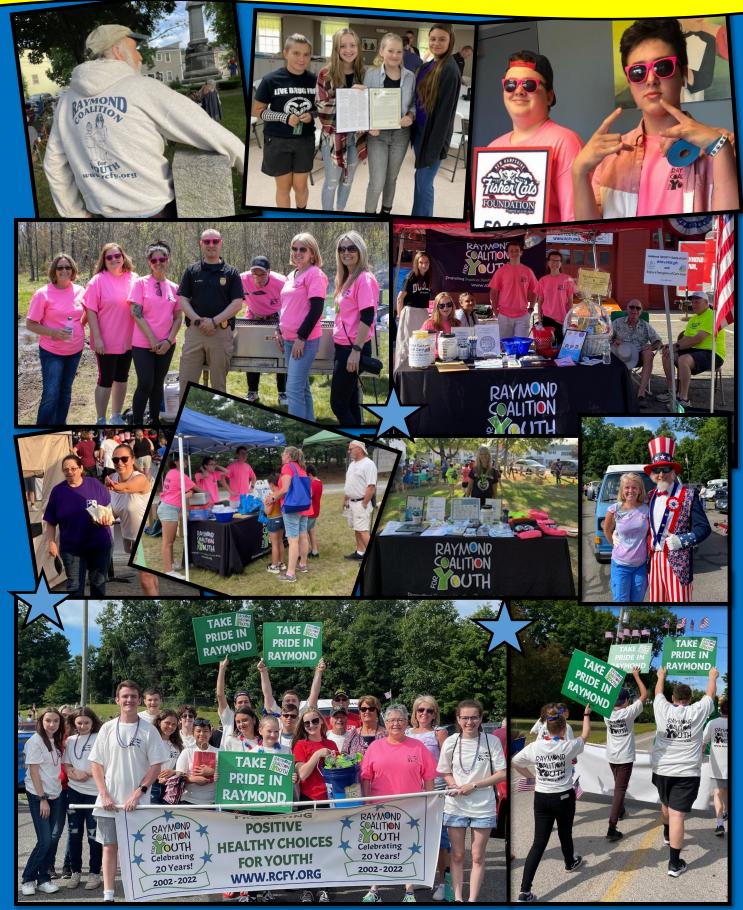
Goal 1: Increasing community involvement and positive adult interactions. Every child should have at least one trusted adult they can go to. RCFY works to increase positive adult interactions in the community to help make that happen.



"If you breathe, your on the team." ~ Dr. Peter Benson. When kids feel valued by and connected to people who care they have better academic and social-emotional outcomes.



## **RCFY** out in the Community



#### **RCFY Meetings -Networking, Resources & Connecting**



The Raymond Coalition For Youth monthly meetings have been happening on the second Thursday of the month, 9:00 am—10:30 am for over twenty years. Consistency is a key to success. Thousands of people have been a part of these meetings, sharing resources, information, and ideas, to support our youth and community. This is RCFY at its best. Many of our community sectors are present and there is always an opportunity to learn, share and grow. A special shout out to everyone who helps these meetings work!! A special thank you to the Raymond Baptist Church for being our host and allowing us use of the space.



Thank you to Congressman Chris Pappas for recognizing "Twenty Years of Life Saving work" being done by RCFY, with a Congressional Record of Honor presented at our September 8, 2022 RCFY monthly meeting.



"I wanted to say again how much I enjoyed the presentation from the Youth Action members. What an amazing group they are. Very well spoken and not afraid of a little push back. These skills will do them well for the rest of their lives. I have to say it was the highlight of my time on the coalition. Thank you for doing what you do! Amazing job!!" Julie Day, Waypoint

#### **Celebrating our Success**



"Very good meeting yesterday! Your attendance is always great. Really nice to hear from the RCFY youth members . Noticed that by the end of the discussion all the youth participated. Initially a couple were more quiet. They handled the alternate points of view very well. Appreciate them taking time out of their day to make it to the meeting."

Kim—Breathe NH

"Thank you from all of us here at the Foundation for the critical work that you all take on every day. It does not go unnoticed!" Matt, Red Sox Foundation



**DATA tells our RCFY success story.** In 2000, the University of NH had a two year grant to come to Raymond and work with community leaders to address data collected through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The data revealed that Raymond students reported higher than state average substance misuse. When the two year grant ended, and UNH was leaving, the leadership group became known as the Raymond Coalition for Youth, born in the summer of 2002. RCFY continues to work with our school district to collect this data to track areas of concern and put strategies in place to help create positive change. The chart below reflects the success of our hard work and highlights when new substances have popped up on our radar demanding outreach, awareness and resources to support our youth.

Raymond High School YRBS								
Last 30 Days								
	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Alcohol	47%	40%	29%	29%	24%	38%	23%	15%
Marijuana	29%	30%	26%	26%	24%	37%	21%	16%
Cigarette use	30%	26%	19%	17%	12%	9%	4%	5%
E-cigs / Vaping					25%	24%	27%	18%
Prescription drugs		9%	8%	9%	10%	6%	4%	1%
Heroin use					6%	2%	1%	1%
Vape marijuana								9%
Cocaine	6%	1%	3%	5%	5%	6%	4%	
Methamphetamines								1%

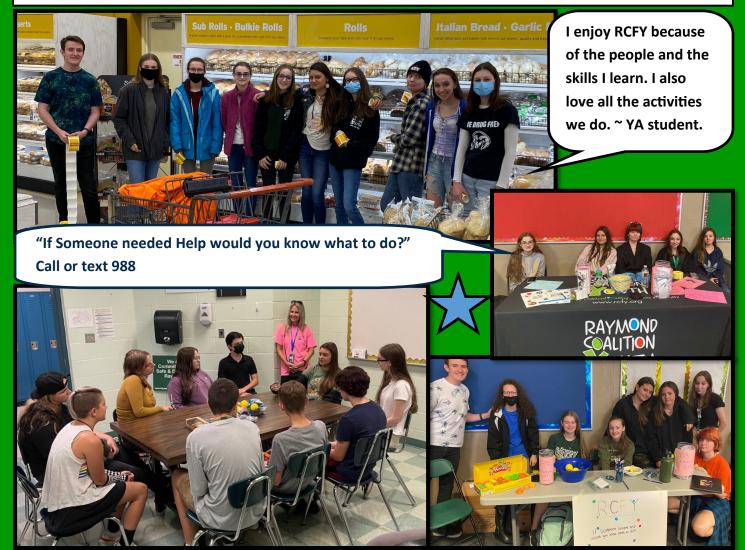
# Youth Action–Middle School

RCFY Youth Action at the middle school is a great introduction to RCFY. High school members mentor this group and teach them about what youth engagement, awareness and empowerment is. It is a great model for success and when members come up to Raymond High School they are ready to go and share their voice.



## **RCFY Youth Action**

Youth led, adult supported. Youth Action is about kids and adults working together to address issues that are identified by our youth. RCFY empowers and support youth voice to make a difference.



"I was also so impressed with the youth that spoke and how they handled the conversation around "comparing generations." Robin, Guest speaker , April 2022



## **Film Festival - Suicide Prevention**

#### Check them out on



#### **Because We Care**

Brought to you by the Middle School Youth Action group of The Raymond Coalition For Youth



#### Know the Signs

Brought to you by The Raymond Coalition For Youth-Youth Action group of at Raymond High School

Nate, Colin, Kaylee, Alicia, Ava, Kim, Molly, Jackie RAYMOND CALITION







RCFY Youth Actions groups at the middle and high school participated in the 2022 Granite Youth Film Festival.

Both groups identified mental health as the most important message to address and they both choose to raise awareness to the new #988 suicide hotline #. This number is available 24/7 and an important resource if someone needs access to care.

They did a great job and had a "premier party to celebrate.



Thank you to Seacoast Public Health Network for helping us to support the I Care postcard campaign to raise awareness and provide information and support .



We all play a role in mental health and suicide prevention. The first step is simply talking. We can check in on our friends and neighbors. You don't need to have all the answers to reach out.



Be willing to listen. Be a safe person for others to come to when they are feeling lonely, stressed or anxious. Be open and non-judgmental.



If someone is acting down; acting different; not doing things they used to love; having changes in sleep; shutting people out; you can help.

### **Providing Policy Awareness and Education**

We have come a long way from the Saturday morning "I'm just a bill" awareness campaign. RCFY Youth members put their voice into action and spoke up about issues that are important them. They want their legislators to be informed and aware of how issues impact their lives, their friends and family. This legislative session youth members went to the Concord State House and shared stories and information of what marijuana products look like today and how they impact their world. It takes a lot of courage to stand up and speak about what is important to you, especially to a room full of adults. Our Youth Action members were engaged, educated, and empowered and they have a message, "Marijuana legalization does 't have to happen if people speak up. " NH HB 1598 to legalize marijuana was voted down this year.





"I am so very proud of the student who attended the hearing on marijuana. Good going! Having served in the State House of Representatives I want the students to know that their testimony was and will always be accepted and valued. Keep up the good work. " - Kathy Hoelzel, Raymond NH Selectwoman



Duncraft Click Here

#### Byline: By CELESTE CLARK

Opinion: Is money more important than health and wellbeing?

By CELESTE CLARK - 4/9/22

IN THE NEWS



Celeste Clark is the executive director of Raymond Coalition For Youth. If you had to choose between the promise of riches or the health and well...



Senate again snuffs out bills to legalize marijuana in NH By Kevin Landrigan New Hampshire Union Leader Updated Apr 29, 2022 CONCORD – Supporters of legalized marijuana will have to wait for another election to get any help from the Legislature.

#### Opinion

September 1, 2022



# UNION LEADER

Celeste Clark: Your vote can encourage or prevent drug abuse HERE WE GO AGAIN. We have been hearing for the past few months that there is an increase in drug overdoses in our state's two most populous cities, Nashua and Manchester. As bad as the opioid epidemic was in 2015, it is expected to be even worse in the coming months with record deaths expect...

### **Operation Raymond Clean Up 2022**



This spring town wide clean up event is always a success. To quote one of our Youth Action members, "it makes you feel good when your town looks nice." This year Raymond High School made it a community service day. The Tuckaway Tavern donated a cookout for all of the students and volunteers that was held at Riverside Park (location of our new Disc Golf park.) This event is substance misuse prevention. Increasing neighborhood attachment and increasing community connections! When youth feel connected to their community they are more likely to make healthy choices. This is the community of Raymond NH—pretty awesome indeed.





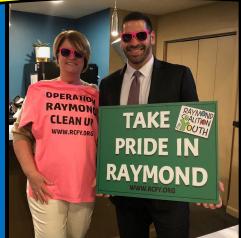
Students participated in Breathe NH's Bag the Butts, to raise awareness to the impact improperly disposed cigarette butts have on our environment . Butts don't look great scattered about the town and on the ground at entrances to businesses. This prevention piece adds an added element to our clean up event.







### An opportunity to Take Pride in Raymond!







Thank you to all our volunteers, of all ages, and to our businesses: MBraun, Embrace Home Loans, Liberty Mutual and Tuckaway Tavern, for supporting our Clean Up and a day of service. Taking Pride in your community is Prevention!















# **2021 Prevention Summit**

Our annual Prevention Summit brings RCFY supporters and partners together in a fun and collaborative atmosphere to provide information on current issues, share strategies to address them and have a call to action for how to get involved. It features guest speakers and is an opportunity to network and thank everyone who makes the work at RCFY happen, including announcing annual awards. Our Youth Action members steal the show sharing an important message to the adults in the room.



**Governor Chris Sununu and RCFY Youth Action** 





Excellent event, per usual. Thank you for all you do! ~ guest, 2022

















# **2022 Fundraising Gala**



### Scholarships & Interns

#### Our 2022 RCFY Scholarships go to.....

Congratulation to RCFY Youth Action members Colin and Molly. Both have been active members of RCFY throughout their high school career and have participated in many hours of community service and outreach activities One of Colin's favorite is Sticker Shock and Molly's is Family Fun Night. We wish them all the best as they move forward. There is no doubt they will do great things!



Our 2022 Summer Interns were also Colin and Molly. This year we also had a new intern support position that was filled by Alicia. As part of being a summer intern they planned, got volunteers, budgeted, got donation to support the event and implemented the Summer Fun Series . Each week they had a new theme and all of them were a success. Both the kids who participated and family members who joined them ,had a great time. They also participated in summer community outreach events like National Night Out, the Fun Family Festival at the Derry Medical Park, to raise awareness to the work we do at RCFY for our community. We are very grateful to them all and hope it was a great learning opportunity to take with them into future endeavors.



### **Summer Fun Series**









Our summer interns planned and organized each of these fun filled events. We partnered with the Raymond Rec to offer fun activities for the kids who came with parents and grandparents to listen to the summer concert series. Pizza was provided to all youth action volunteers who came to volunteer and help with the activities. Everyone had something fun to do!



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## **Substance Misuse Prevention**



## Law Enforcement Partnerships



Thank you to the men and woman who serve and protect us each day!







National Night Out with the Raymond Police Department was a blast! This annual community building event promotes strong police and community partnerships to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live and work. Plus it was great to see our Police having fun. The DEA Medication Take Back Events are great opportunities to engage the community and raise awareness to the importance of medication safety.



#### Cam Baer Memorial Disc Golf Course

Opened on September 18th, 2022, free to the public and located at Riverside Park in Raymond. The Cam Baer Memorial Disc Golf Course was created by Dennis Grzywacz of Acme Disc Golf and made possible through thousands of hours of volunteer time, donations and support from people throughout the community. This park is made from love for all to enjoy.



#### Cam Baer Memorial Disc Golf Course



#### Thank you to all who made this possible.

The Raymond Coalition For Youth, Town of Raymond NH, everyone who supported the Gofundme page, Cams family and friends, and the countless volunteers who generously shared their time talent and resources to make this all possible.

#### A special thank you to the sponsors:

Cellos Restaurant, Margaritis Family, Baer Family, Hi Volt Line Construction and Maintenance, DC Wright Construction, Reed Family, Slim Insurance, Curry College men's soccer team 2010, Ez Docking, Alexandropolis Family, Acme Disc Golf, Brewitt Funeral Home, Jameson Family, USA Utility and Assistance, Little Woods Landscaping, Cams Friends, and to those who generously donated in memory of a loved ones: Andrew "Googly" Headden, Scuffy Sherman, Heidi Beth Marcoux, and Cam Baer.

Please enjoy the park and your time doing something you love, with the people important to you. That is what the course was created for.





# **DRUG FREE ZONE**

This is Town of Raymond NH Recreation Property The use of Alcohol and Tobacco products is prohibited by law and punishable by fine. Alcohol (RSA 175:1) Tobacco Free Zone (RSA 41:11-b) Thank you for following the rules. "Thanks for all the great work you continue to do! The community is a safer place with the work you do and your program is an inspiration to other youth-prevention groups. " ~ Chris Hutchins, retired NHLE

Changing the physical design of a community is prevention. Awareness signs were posted on all recreation fields in town to ensure everyone is aware of town ordinances that do not allow for the use of alcohol or tobacco on town own land.

#### **<u>RCFY</u>** Board and Staff



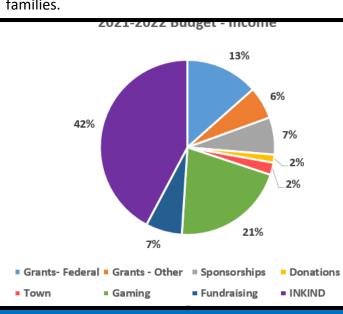
Pictured: RCFY Board Members—Dustin Ramey, John Gagliardi, Jess Caron, Pat Arsenault, Carrie Chooljian, Ali Bousquin, Deb Intonti, Mark Hassenpflug and Terry Leatherman.

Staff Members— Celeste Clark, Pamela Turcotte and Pam Baker.

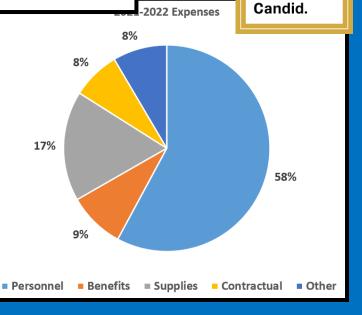
RCFY is a 501(C)3 Nonprofit organization with a Board of Directors as our governing body, made up of caring volunteer community leaders who set the direction of RCFY to ensure the long-term sustainability of our work in the community. We function much like a business with a focus on our long-term sustainability with diversified funding. If you have an interest in learning more about being a board member, please contact us. RCFY is proud to have the Guidestar.com Gold Transparency status.

The RCFY staff are the driving force behind seeing that our strategic action plan gets done. They are actively involved in the community and listen to the needs of our youth and work to empower their voice.

All donations stay in our local community and to support our youth and families.







### Working Together with, and in, our Community

When we all work together the results are amazing! RCFY and our partners, Raymond Rec, Raymond Police, Boy Scouts, SAU33, Parent Groups and the Historical Society all came together to support Red Ribbon Week and the Fall Family Festival, including the DEA medication take back. Everyone learned a few new things, got connected to resources and information, enjoyed the community and had fun! **This is prevention!** 









