

## MEDIA ALERT

### Waymakers Staff Partner with Students from “Save Our Youth” in Costa Mesa to Spread Substance Use Prevention Messages

On Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Waymakers collaborated with 12 students from the local non-profit, Save Our Youth (SOY) to put together a movie night to educate their peers about the dangers of vaping and driving under the influence.

Three health educators from the Waymakers Youth Substance Use and Impaired Driving Prevention projects, collaborated with the SOY students for over a month to help bring their prevention ideas to life. The movie night started with a little friendly competition between the students who created the event. Two teams of students were educated on the impacts of vaping and the dangers of driving under the influence, using youth-designed posters. After students learned about each topic, they voted for the team that provided the best information and had the most creative poster. This contest was an excellent way for student leaders to engage their peers on the dangers of substance use and impaired driving in a fun and informative way! While the teens ultimately voted on the vaping poster as the winner, all youth gained information about these risky behaviors, and because of that -- they are all winners.



The evening concluded with a showing of Frozen 2. Many of the students commented on how much they enjoyed the event and would want to plan something similar in the future. Waymakers and SOY are very proud of the students who made all this possible for their peers, recognizing their hard work and dedication.



Waymakers is involved in engaging the community in a variety of prevention-based programs such as reducing impaired driving and youth substance use within Orange County.

SOY is an after school program in Costa Mesa created to give teenagers an alternative to joining a gang and working against the temptations on the streets. The organization provides a healthy and safe environment for

teenagers through a variety of programs offered at their facility, such as tutoring, college preparation, sports and recreation, dance, art and community service projects.

Waymakers is committed to creating healthy, positive environments for youth to thrive in by addressing topics such as drug, alcohol, tobacco use and impaired driving prevention. We look forward to partnering with more youth in the future to



implement these types of creative and unique prevention projects. This activity was funded through the Orange County Health Care Agency – Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team.

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For more information on Waymakers, visit [waymakersoc.org](http://waymakersoc.org).

### **About Waymakers**

Every day throughout Orange County, people find hope after trauma. They don't simply survive; they find ways to heal – all with the help of Waymakers, formerly called Community Service Programs. Our eight model programs guide over 125,000 abused children, crime victims, struggling families, acting-out adolescents and people needing mediation services annually. Waymakers has been sheltering children, supporting victims, counseling families, resolving conflicts and educating communities in Orange County since 1972. Learn more at [WaymakersOC.org](http://WaymakersOC.org).

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