

Winners of the www.NoRxAbuse.com Slogan Contest are Announced



From left, David Knauf, Darien Director of Health, Catherine Garrett, first place winner of the 1/8/2017 NoRxAbuse.com slogan contest, honorable mentions Emma Barefoot and Catherine Arrix receive their prizes from the Communities 4 Action Executive Director, Ingrid Gillespie, and Emily Larkin, Thriving Youth Program Coordinator at The Community Fund of Darien

On Thursday evening, January 19th at the Darien Library, David Knauf, Darien Director of Health opened the second session of “DARIEN, HOW HEALTHY ARE WE?” with a discussion of the most recent epidemic sweeping the nation and the community, that of opioid addiction and prescription drug abuse. To highlight this issue, a ceremony was held to announce the winners of the regional contest among middle and high school students to create a slogan for www.NoRxAbuse.com, a new campaign to increase awareness of the dangers from prescription drug misuse. Out of 114 entries, the first place award with a \$250 prize went to Catherine Garrett, a tenth grade student at Darien High School, for the slogan “Rx: Popping Pills Kills.” Two honorable mention awards of \$100 were given to Greenwich High School twelfth grader Emma Barefoot for the slogans “No Excuse for RX Abuse” and “Choose to Abuse-You Lose” as well as to Darien High School twelfth grade student Catherine Arrix for the slogan “The First Pill Could Be Your Last.” Ingrid Gillespie (Executive Director of Communities4Action) and Emily Larkin (Thriving Youth Program Coordinator at The Community Fund of Darien) announced the three winners of the contest.

The slogan contest, which was open to middle and high school students, was a cooperative effort of the Communities 4 Action Opioid Prevention Committee and part of an up-coming campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of prescription drug abuse. To participate, students visited

the website NoRxAbuse.com to learn the facts of drug abuse and complete their entries. One of the entry requirements was to explain what they learned about prescription drug abuse, how to prevent friends from abusing prescription drugs, and how the contest helped them discuss the topic with their parents and friends. The Communities 4 Action Opioid Prevention Committee consists of health and city leaders from Darien, Stamford, New Canaan, and Greenwich including Deidre Anspach (Stamford Health Department), Ellen Brezovsky (Silver Hill Hospital), Ellen Bromley (City of Stamford), Kathy Brown (Recovery Coaching for Families), Dennis Torres (Family Centers School-based Health Centers), Rich Conklin (Stamford Police Department), Terri Drew (Stamford Youth Services Bureau), Ingrid Gillespie (Communities 4 Action), Jeff Holland (Communities 4 Action), Ted Jankowski (Director, City of Stamford Public Safety, Health and Welfare), Pam Kaprowski (Stamford Hospital and VITA), Debra Katz (Kids in Crisis), Ginger Katz (Courage to Speak Foundation), David Knauf (Darien Health Department), Steve Kolenberg (Stamford City Representative), Bob Lawlor (New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area HIDTA Program), Barbara Occhino (Vertex Marketing Communications), Kelsey Opozda (New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area HIDTA Program), Paul Reinhardt (New Canaan Parent Support Group), Jayme Stevenson (First Selectman of Darien), and Maggie Young (Liberation Programs Inc).

(You may watch the award ceremony and the complete three part series of *"Darien, How Healthy Are We"* at www.darienhealth.com)