

## *Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse Service-Learning Projects*



### *Middle School*

- After learning about public policy, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students decided there was a need for better public policy preventing alcohol advertisers from deliberately targeting young people. The students researched alcohol advertisements and proposed new policies, which they presented at two city-wide public forums and in letters to their local elected officials.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade health students learned about the prevalence of drinking and substance abuse among young people in their community. They decided they wanted to do something to address this problem so after researching the dangers of abusing alcohol and drugs they decided to host a substance-abuse awareness fair for their school. The students partnered with their school's resource officer to organize the fair – which included workshops on how to respond to peer pressure and substance abuse education.

### *High School*

- A 9<sup>th</sup> grade student in a technology program partnered with the guidance counselor and school nurse to create a video about the dangers of heroin use. The video depicts a tragic story of a young man who dies the first time he uses heroin. Interjected throughout the film are students and teachers responding to the question “Do you think you can die from heroin the first time you use it?” The film was shown at the school's open house and at conferences around New England to raise awareness about the dangers of heroin.
- Juniors and seniors in a Medical Occupations Class partnered with the local chapter of the March of Dimes to educate their peers on the dangers of underage drinking and fetal alcohol syndrome. Students researched the effects of drinking and fetal alcohol syndrome and created an educational brochure about the myths of drinking. The students presented their brochure and research to middle school students hoping the younger students would make good decisions about drinking after hearing about its dangers from slightly older peers.
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade students worked with the student council on the annual *Every 15 Minutes* program, an alcohol education and awareness program. The students put together posters with graphs and tabular charts depicting information about blood alcohol content and displayed them in the school during the two-day program.