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Kudos to Parent for Reporting Underage Drinking Party

Portland, ME—Today 21 Reasons issued congratulations to the anonymous parent who reported an underage drinking party to police over the weekend. That report resulted in the breakup of the party at 16 Hope Ave on Saturday night. The party involved 35 to 40 teenagers, mostly from Deering and Portland high schools. Portland Police issued a court summons to a 16-year-old for furnishing the alcohol at the party. A father and son were ordered to appear in court on charges of furnishing a place for minors to drink.

“We thank all the parents out there who would choose the health and welfare of the children at that party over the easier choice--turning a blind eye,” states Jo Morrissey, Assistant Project Director for 21 Reasons. “Unfortunately, not every parent can be everywhere all the time. Even the best of parents need to rely on the good sense of their neighbors, friends, law enforcement, and businesses for the safety of their children.”

The parent’s wise decision to report the party highlights what was revealed in a 2008 survey by 21 Reasons: more and more parents are taking concrete steps to prevent their child from drinking alcohol. The biannual phone survey of Portland parents revealed:

- 41% of parents ask their teens if there is going to be alcohol at a party, up from 28% in 2006.
- 45% of parents call to see if parents will be at a party, up from 24% in 2006

The same survey also showed parents taking other actions to prevent their teen from drinking alcohol include counting and marking bottles and locking up the liquor that is in their homes.

“More parents are realizing that underage drinking comes with great risks—even beyond the risks of drinking and driving,” says Morrissey.

According to national statistics, the majority of underage drinking deaths are the result of suicides, homicides, and unintentional injuries such as drowning, burns, falls, and suffocation. This statistic is underscored by the tragic results of another underage drinking party this past weekend, when a 19 year old died of exposure after a wandering away from a drinking party in central Maine.

<http://updates.pressherald.maintoday.com/updates/maine-police-say-19-year-old-died-of-exposure>.

For more tips for parental monitoring, visit our Parent Resources page:

<http://www.21reasons.org/parents.php>

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