



HICKMAN MILLS C-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

9000 Old Santa Fe Road • Kansas City, MO 64138

Telephone: 816-316-7000 • FAX 816-316-7020

NCA Accreditation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCHOOLS UNITE TO EMPOWER COMMUNITY, BRING CHANGE

Thirty students from Hickman Mills, Ruskin and Archbishop O'Hara High School will spend their weekend brainstorming how to make the Hickman Mills community a better place to live. The students, joined by a diverse group of community partners including Carter Broadcasting Group, Campfire U.S.A., the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office and the Kansas City Spartans semi-pro basketball team, will gather for a two-day retreat, December 5-6 at Camp Shawnee, 16600 NW River Road, Waldron, Mo.

"The focus of the retreat is to empower youth to understand the impact of substance abuse on families and communities and how they can give back to their community to positively make a change," said Deidre Anderson, the director of at-risk programs and grants for the Hickman Mills C-1 School District.

Students will learn about team building and community service, plus plan a safe New Year's activity. The Spartans, who play their home games at Hickman Mills High School, will meet with the students to partner on projects that will positively impact area youth, families, and residents.

"During this time of giving, these students are demonstrating it isn't about receiving gifts, it's about giving back in some small way," Anderson said. "We indeed can, and will, make a difference."

The retreat is sponsored by the Hickman Mills Prevention Coalition and the Youth 4 Change group. The coalition is comprised of civic and neighborhood leaders who want to foster a safe, healthy and drug-free atmosphere throughout the Hickman Mills community.

For more information, contact:

John Baccala

Public Information Coordinator

Hickman Mills C-1 School District

(816) 316-8240

or

Deidre Anderson

Director of At-Risk Programs and Grants

Hickman Mills C-1 School District

(816) 316-8521