



## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### Youth for Youth Conference to Be Held This Weekend Over 300 Youth Registered Registration Is Closed

**Hagatna, April 5, 2011-** Registration for this year's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth for Youth Conference is CLOSED. Over 300 youth have registered for the conference that will be held this **Saturday to Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011** at the Hyatt Regency Guam in Tumon.

Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam (YFYLG) in conjunction with the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse (DMHSA), Prevention & Training Branch and Department of Youth Affairs (DYA) celebrates 21 years of helping young people to empower other teens to live healthy and drug-free lifestyles. This year, the annual Youth for Youth Conference will involve youth participants from Guam, Republic of Marshalls, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

#### The goals of this year's conference are:

- To learn to use the powerful influence and creativity of teens to turn peer pressure from Negative to positive;
- To teach young people effective leadership and goal setting skills;
- To give clear messages to teens that it is their responsibility to say "No" to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, violence and other forms of negative behavior.

Day one (Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>) of the conference will focus on **Underage Drinking Prevention** aligned with the conference theme that "21 Means 21". In addition, YFYLG and the DYA is **hosting a special** "Video PSA Challenge," an island wide peer-led public service announcement (PSA) video competition to help spread the word that "21 Means 21." The PSA Challenge will identify and reward the island's best student-led, PSA projects with focus on Guam Public Law 30-156 (Guam's Underage Age Drinking Laws). Guam's middle schools, high schools, and college and university students are invited to enter the contest by submitting their PSAs to the Sorensen Media Group by May 9, 2011.

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The best projects (based on creativity, originality, message and overall presentation) will be selected, which are then judged by a team of media and prevention professionals for CASH prizes.

A hyped “fashion” show with teens modeling special apparel from DNA Evolution will take place during lunchtime.

Day 2 (Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>) will focus on **Substance Abuse Prevention**. Youth will host the “Youth Talk Today” and elicit discussions among teens around substance abuse prevention and offer suggestions of how to say “no” to negative peer influences. Day 3 (Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>), participants will learn about Guam’s **Focus on Life** youth suicide prevention efforts and the services that are available, such as the ASIST and Safetalk suicide prevention trainings, youth helpline, and suicide support group. A motivational keynote presenter will present on suicide prevention.

In addition, the conference features over 20 educational workshops facilitated by teens that encourage positive life choices surrounding teen issues. YFYLG is a non-profit organization with approximately 60 middle/high school youth members representing public and private schools on Guam. Youth empower their peers with knowledge and skills to promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles by participating in community educational outreach, prevention training, leadership/skill development, community collaboration and other positive alternatives promoting healthier lifestyles.

For more information about the Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam Conference, the Video PSA Contest and other YFYLG activities, contact Gayle Osborn at 477- 9081 or 477-8863 or Kristine Lujan at 477-5700 x 125. Visit [www.peaceguam.org](http://www.peaceguam.org).

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