

July 2021



From Community Events to CADCA learn what The Coalition has been up to this month!

Visit our Website

"So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth."

—Baha'u'llah, Prophet Founder Of The Baha'i Faith



## Getting Back to Normal

The Vernon ROCKS attended **July in the Sky** at the beginning of the month. After socially distancing for a year and a half it was nice to finally get to interact with the community and educate the public on substance use prevention. We cannot wait to continue attending events within the community!

Pictured Below (R to L): Real Talk members Raziah and Saher with Project Director, Cassie Schend



**UPCOMING:** Be sure to stop by our table at Vernon's annual National Night Out (NNO)! The event will take place on **August 3rd at 5 PM.**

NNO is an annual nationwide event to promote partnership and build community ties between first responders and the community they serve. Vernon ROCKS and Real Talk members will be there to provide awareness and education about substance use and ways to prevent youth substance use.

Click [HERE](#) for more information



BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month

July is Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Mental Health Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to bringing attention to the difficulty that minorities experience in regards to their mental health and the unique struggles they face.

Mental illness is a nondiscriminatory affliction, impacting anyone regardless of demographics or background. There is a lot of stigma about mental health in general and unfortunately, marginalized individuals face that stigma even more and face greater impacts on their mental health due to not receiving the care, education, and help they need.

We need to break the stigma and provide more access to care so that those dealing with mental illness do not have to go through the unnecessary barrier of society's judgment and can find the right treatment that fits their personal life, cultural beliefs, and customs.

Read more about this important Awareness Month [HERE](#)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
800-273-8255

Red Nacional de Prevención del Suicidio  
1 (888) 628-9454

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## Adult Cannabis Use Now Legal in Connecticut

This month, Connecticut legalized adult recreational cannabis use, making Connecticut the 19th state to legalize it. Some noteworthy components of the bill include youth prevention. The bill follows some of the states' underage drinking laws, including that it will be "be a Class A misdemeanor to sell or provide cannabis to a person under 21 years old. In addition, an individual allowing someone under 21 years old to loiter at a cannabis store will receive a \$1,000 fine on the first offense with subsequent offenses as a Class B misdemeanor. It will be a Class D misdemeanor for a person under the age of 21 to lie about their age or use a fake ID in an attempt to buy cannabis. Delivery services will be required to use online ID and age verification."

You can find more information on the bill [HERE](#)

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## The Vernon ROCKS is Recruiting!

The Village VISTA Collaborative is looking for our next AmeriCorps VISTA! If you know someone who has a passion for service, is hardworking, and wants to help reduce youth substance use in the Town of Vernon, share our position with them!

[Position Application](#)

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Additionally, Real Talk is always looking for new members. If you know an RHS student who wants to be a part of something amazing and help make an impact on the Vernon Community tell them about Real Talk and have them email Holly at [hhansen@thevillage.org](mailto:hhansen@thevillage.org) for more information and to sign up!

[Find More Information on Real Talk Here](#)

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## The Vernon ROCKS Coalition Attended CADCA Mid-Year

Members of the coalition attended CADCA's 20th Annual Mid-Year conference, a four day event to learn the latest in substance use prevention. It was a great opportunity, teaching so much to our members! We can't wait to utilize what we learned to work towards our mission of providing Resources & Outreach for Community Knowledge & Success to prevent youth substance abuse



If you or a loved one is having trouble with substance abuse check out the available resources  
If you are aware of an underage party or illegal activity follow the link and submit the anonymous  
Are you are interested in becoming more involved with the Vernon ROCKS Coalition we are in the area.

[Get Help](#)

If you are aware of an underage party or illegal activity follow the link and submit the anonymous  
Are you are interested in becoming more involved with the Vernon ROCKS Coalition we are in the area. Get Help form below, and the Vernon ROCKS Coalition will work with the Vernon Police Department to prevent or stop the activity.

[Report it Here](#)

Are you are interested in becoming more involved with the Vernon ROCKS Coalition we are always looking for more members. You can join by visiting our website!

[Get Involved](#)

The Vernon ROCKS Coalition | [Website](#)



The Village for Families & Children | 19 Elm Street, Vernon, CT 06066

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