



Proclamation Declaring

April 2014 as

Social Host Awareness Month

Alcohol kills 6.5 times more young people than all other illicit drugs combined and usage among teens often accompanies traffic fatalities, suicides, unprotected sex, drug use, and other high risk behavior and illegal activity. Adults who provide alcohol to those below the legal drinking age of 21 are placing those youth at risk of suffering from harm related to the use of alcohol.

Alcohol is a factor in the four leading causes of death among persons ages 10-24: motor vehicle crashes, unintentional injuries, homicide and suicide. Alcohol use by young people is dangerous, not only because of the risks associated with acute impairment, but also because of the threat to their long-term development and well-being, including damage to the memory and learning centers of the brain, which does not stop developing until the age of 25.

In Michigan it is estimated that underage alcohol use costs the citizens of Michigan \$2.1 billion, translating to a cost of \$2,084 per person per year for each youth. Michigan is ranked 16th in the Nation for the percentage of alcohol consumed by underage youth.

One-hundred percent of any alcohol consumer by a minor came from an adult. At one time, an adult over the age of 21 was in control of the alcohol and a minor gained access to it.

It is illegal for adults to knowingly allow their child's friends to drink alcohol in their home, even with the permission of the friends' parents, and adults have the authority and should have the responsibility to take steps to reduce the likelihood that their homes will become venues for underage drinking.

For these reasons, I, Michael Estes, Mayor of the City of Traverse City, hereby proclaim April 2014 as Social Host Awareness Month and call upon all parents, citizens, homeowners, and property owners to host gatherings responsibly and take measures to eliminate access of alcohol to persons under the age of 21.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Estes".

Michael Estes, Mayor
City of Traverse City

