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Local youth receive grant to prevent youth substance use in Central Virginia

Lynchburg, VA – Local student-led advocacy group, Healthy Youth through Prevention Education (HYPE) Club, were awarded the Youth Tobacco Use Prevention Grant in the amount of \$158,226 to further engage local youth in the reduction of substance use and support youth development over the next three years.

Funded by the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY), the funding will support local efforts to empower Virginia's youth to make healthy choices by reducing and preventing youth tobacco and nicotine use, substance use, and developing positive decision-making skills. The three-year grant will support the provision of school-based curriculum, Too Good for Drugs (TGFD), as well as support leadership opportunities for students, and student-led prevention activities as identified by the Healthy Youth through Prevention Education (HYPE) Club of Heritage and E. C. Glass High Schools.

As evidence of the impact of prevention initiatives in the City of Lynchburg; 98% of Lynchburg City School students participating in the 2022-2023 TGFD program responded that "Too Good for Drugs' helped me to become more knowledgeable about drugs, alcohol, and tobacco usage and the health risks associated with each."

Local youth vocalize their excitement for renewed funding to support their efforts to educate their peers and the greater community.

"I'm happy that we got the funding to continue [this work] because we can teach more people that you don't have to do drugs to have fun. I'm excited to continue to 'look out' for the health of our peers. This funding will help us make a change in young lives. We get a chance to show the community that you don't need to turn to drugs when things get hard. I'm so thankful to continue to have the opportunity to meet with the HYPE Club and make an impact in our community. This funding allows us to spread the word in more creative ways about anti-drug use among youth. We get to help the community in more ways than one."

Healthy Youth through Prevention Education (HYPE) is supported by Horizon Behavioral Health and the Central Virginia Addiction and Recovery Resources Coalition (CVARR). To learn more about the Healthy Youth through Prevention Education (HYPE) Club, visit [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).



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***Horizon Behavioral Health** has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in the Central Virginia region for more than 54 years. Horizon provides services to adults and children, addressing challenges with mental health, substance use and intellectual disabilities. Horizon is accredited by CARF International. This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to a behavioral health organization.*