

Keeping Your Home A SAFE HOME

1. Sign the **SAFE HOMES pledge** and discuss your decision with your family. You may decide to post a copy of it on your family's refrigerator to serve as a reminder.

3. **Call ahead** to confirm your child's social plans **BEFORE** you give permission for him or her to participate.

2. Always arrange supervision for your children when you expect to be away for an extended period of time.

4. Make certain that activities are supervised by responsible adults and that they will be alcohol and drug-free. Never be embarrassed to call and talk to the adult in charge.

6. If you plan to be out of town and have left your child at a friend's house, we suggest that you ask the host parent, your next-door neighbor, as well as the police, to keep an eye on your house. This is to discourage impromptu gatherings. Inform your children that you have made these arrangements.

5. Secure any alcohol you may have in your home away from your children. We suggest that you remove this temptation from curious young people by locking alcohol up or removing it from the home while raising children.

7. Be a visible host when parties or gatherings are taking place at your home. Observe what is happening in subtle ways: replenish the refreshments, remove trash, suggest some fun activity or new music, etc.

8. Be aware that most of youth alcohol and other drug use takes place in homes when parents are absent. Children can be quite creative in finding hiding spots for these things.

9. Becoming a **SAFE HOMES** member does not imply distrust of your children. Rather, it simply means you are aware of the social pressures on today's young people and you care enough to create a safe, healthy social environment for them.

10. Parents may hesitate to join **SAFE HOMES** because they feel their children will never be a problem. You cannot guarantee, however, that other young people coming into your home will not create a problem. **Get to know other parents and remember to use your **SAFE HOMES** directory.**