

# METH DESTROYS

Anti-Meth Task Force E-newsletter

May 2006

## Partner spotlight:



The Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, Johnson City Chamber of Commerce and the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development are this month's featured partners. These organizations made contributions to the "Meth in the Workplace" poster and helped with distribution to their members.

"We are being proactive in our battle against meth," said Brad Hurley, president of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. "We want businesses in our community and throughout the state to understand that meth is extremely dangerous to our employees and has a negative effect on the entire business climate in Tennessee."

The Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas estimates that substance abuse drains more than \$100 billion from American businesses every year, and some calculations show that meth-using employees can cost employers \$42,000 a year. Substance abusers are also 2.5 times more likely to be absent eight or more days a year. Businesses spend an average of \$7,000 to replace one salaried worker.

Six additional organizations have recently partnered with

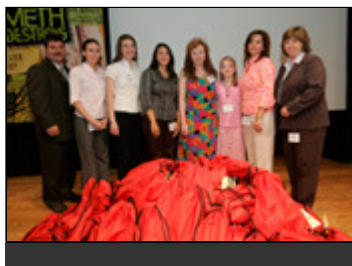
Thank you for your continued support of the Tennessee District Attorneys' **Meth Destroys** campaign. The campaign is making tremendous strides in educating Tennesseans about the dangers of meth, and we couldn't do it without you. The following is an update of what's been going on with the campaign recently.



## Youth Leadership Summit

On April 25, 2006, the District Attorneys hosted more than 150 high school students from across Tennessee at the **Meth Destroys** Youth Leadership Summit in Nashville. The Summit brought together high school students, **Meth Destroys** campaign partners, and Tennessee District Attorneys for a powerful day of community service, story-telling, and discussion – all activities geared toward addressing one of the most challenging issues Tennessee faces: methamphetamine use.

One of the central activities of the Summit was a community service project, in which students filled 200 backpacks with necessities for children taken from meth-contaminated homes. The backpacks were presented by the Summit participants to representatives of the Tennessee Chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers, a **Meth Destroys** campaign partner. Children's Advocacy Centers family advocates will distribute the backpacks to children in need throughout Tennessee.



Shelby Noland, a seventh-grade student from Nashville's Dupont Tyler Middle School, spoke to participants about her personal experience as a child removed from her home after her mom was arrested on meth charges.

the campaign, as well. They are:

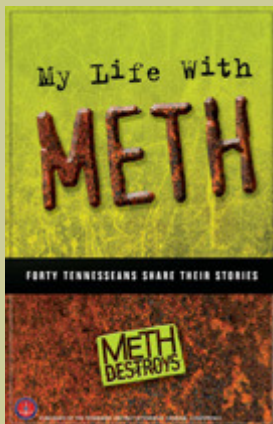
- YMCA of Middle Tennessee
- Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians
- Tennessee Retail Association
- Tennessee Association of Realtors
- Tennessee Coalition for Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Foundations Associates

[Click here](#) to see a complete list of campaign partners.

To learn more about partnering your business or organization with the **Meth Destroys** campaign, [click here](#).

If you would like to request materials, join the Anti-Meth Task Force, or learn more about how meth destroys, please visit [www.MethFreeTN.org](http://www.MethFreeTN.org).

### Shared Stories Booklet



All of the materials, images and stories featured in the **Meth Destroys** campaign are from real Tennesseans. The new booklet, "My Life with Meth," chronicles the stories of 40 Tennesseans whose lives were affected by meth use, or the use of the drug by a loved one.

[Click here](#) to read "My Life with Meth."

Representatives from the Tennessee Chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers, Shelby Noland and her mother, Lyn, with the 200 backpacks assembled by *Meth Destroys* Youth Leadership Summit attendees.

"In April 2002, my mom was arrested and taken to jail, and my little brother, Steven, and I were taken from our home," said Noland.

"We couldn't take anything with us, no clothes or toys or anything. It is really sad to leave all your stuff behind, so I know that the kids who get these backpacks will really like them."

Several **Meth Destroys** campaign partners donated materials to the community service project, including the Tennessee Dental Hygienists' Association, Tennessee Dental Association and Tennessee 4-H. The Tennessee District Attorneys General Association, Procter & Gamble, Renaissance Nashville Hotel, Gaylord Entertainment and the Children's Clinic, P.A., also donated materials for the backpacks.

Students also heard from Tennesseans who are recovering meth addicts, district attorneys, and medical and community service experts. A highlight of the Summit was an appearance by Gov. Phil Bredesen, who kicked off the event by encouraging the students to be active in the state's anti-meth efforts.

The **Meth Destroys** Youth Leadership Summit was a culmination of the campaign's outreach to youth. The Summit aimed to guide students toward activities, methods, and information they can use to spread the message of the **Meth Destroys** campaign upon their return to their communities.

Every student who attended the Summit is a member of the **Meth Destroys Youth Leadership Council**. Any student in the state is eligible to join the Council, and applications are still being accepted. Students can [click here](#) to apply.

[Click here](#) to view additional photos from the **Meth Destroys** Youth Leadership Summit.

### Meth in the Workplace

More than 1,000 Tennessee employers who are state chamber members received workplace-specific materials, including "Meth in the Workplace" posters, adult education booklets, a notice to all employees, and a list of resources and helpful hints. All materials promote a drug-free workplace and inform employees about the horrible effects of meth. The Tennessee Department of Labor is also distributing materials at meetings and training sessions.

The goal of the initiative is to provide employers with the resources they need to educate themselves and their employees about the dangers of

methamphetamine in the workplace and its effect on the economy.

[Click here](#) to view Meth in the Workplace materials.

[Click here](#) to request copies of the Meth in the Workplace poster shown here.

