

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**September 24, 2003**

**SEMCA BACK TO SCHOOL JAM SET FOR SEPTEMBER 30**

**TAYLOR, MI Sept. 24, 2003** – “Talk about It. Be about It. Choose not to Use.” Is the substance abuse prevention message that the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) and the Inkster Community Task Force will be reinforcing to students during its Back to School Jam on Tuesday, September 30 from 3 – 7 p.m. at the Booker Dozier Recreation Center located at 2025 Middlebelt. The program will begin at 4 p.m.

Middle and high school students representing Inkster, Garden City, Wayne-Westland, Romulus and Dearborn Heights District 7 are invited to attend this exciting event that will promote drug, alcohol and tobacco awareness.

“SEMCA is hosting this event in Inkster, to connect youth to their community by providing positive tools that will help them take ownership of their lives and adopt healthy behaviors,” said Theresa Webster, prevention coordinator of SEMCA.

The event kicks-off with an up and coming local R&B group followed by an appearance by Detroit Lions linebacker Wali Rainer. Students will also participate in a teen forum to address the impact of substance abuse on the community. Health screening, career planning tips and employment resources will also be provided by SEMCA’s partnering agencies. The Jam will conclude with a freestyle rap and poetry contest for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate.

“This event is positive for the Inkster community because it teaches youth good lessons of life,” said Councilwoman DeArtriss Richardson of the Inkster Community Task Force. “This event also offers kids resources that they wouldn’t otherwise get at home.”

“We want our youth to take care of themselves, by taking a stand and getting involved in community service and after-school programs,” said Jack O’Reilly, executive director of SEMCA.

The following agencies and businesses have stepped up with strong support including the Inkster Fire Department, Inkster Police Department, Fanatic U of Garden City and Showcase Cinemas of Wayne.

The Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) administers human service programs throughout Monroe and Wayne County excluding Detroit.

For more information on the Back to School Jam, please call Melissa Thrasher at 734.229.3553 or visit the website at [www.semcaprevention.org](http://www.semcaprevention.org).

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