# Working with Your State's First Lady (or Gentleman) to Prevent Underage Drinking

Hope Taft, First Lady Emeritus, Ohio, President and CEO, Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free Foundation

# Is it half full or half empty?



# Leadership To Keep Children Alcohol Free Foundation



# You can find us online.....www.alcoholfreechildren.org



### Leadership Mission

 Support the efforts of the Governors' spouses, in their states and nationally, to prevent and reduce childhood drinking, especially among youth, 9-15 years old.

# Why 9-15 year olds?

- Alcohol is the most widely used substance of abuse among America's youth.
- And research shows that those who start drinking before age 15 are six times more likely to have alcohol problems as adults than those who start drinking at age 21 or older.
- Alcohol use damages developing brains, and disrupts emotional, moral, and psychological development.
- Alcohol contributes to the 3 leading causes of death for adolescents: Injury, Suicide, Homicide.
- SAMHSA News Release, March 25, 2010, http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1003250241.aspx

### Member States

- Alabama
- Alaska
- American Samoa
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Delaware
- Georgia
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts

- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island

- South Dakota
- South Carolina
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

#### Visit:

http://www.alcoholfreechildren.org/states

# Three Issues To Work On Across State Lines

- Increasing Age of First Use
- \*Availability and Accessibility
- Engaging More People Parents are Key!

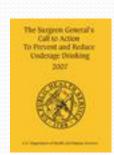
Read more about "Burger King plans beer-selling Whopper Bar in South Beach" at:

http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2010-01-21-burger-king-beer\_N.htm



# Concentrated Efforts to Address Issues

- Promoting the Surgeon General's Call to Action (CTA) to Prevent Underage Drinking
  - Arranged and Attended 13 trips to different states featuring the CTA
- Promoting SAMHSA Town Hall Meetings on Underage Drinking
- Developing Materials to Guide Conversations



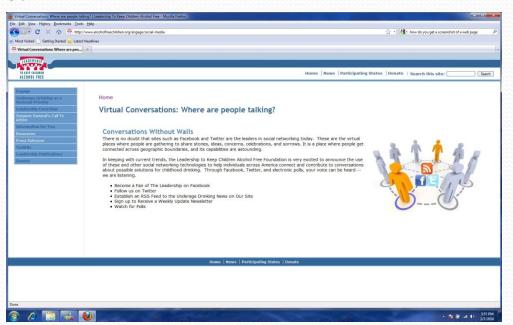
### **Publications**

- Working to Prevent Underage Drinking: Workplace is the Key
- Changing the Conversation:
  Community Discussion Guide on Childhood Drinking



### Engage!

 Leadership's initiative to promote conversations in small gatherings, in workplaces, on-line via social media networks.



# Leadership Reads

- 2011 initiative focused on bringing parents/guardians together to discuss the book, Messengers in Denim
- Discussion guide, co-authored by Dr. Par Donahue(pediatrician) and Dr. Bonnie Hedrick (behavioral health specialist)
- Release date, June, 2011
- Free download from the web
- Discusses underage drinking as a deterrent to childhood and adolescent health

## We need your help!

- Share Leadership Reads with Governor's spouses across the nation
- Encourage their involvement in the Leadership To Keep Children Alcohol Free
- Get more information and sign up for weekly updates at:
  - www.alcoholfreechildren.org