



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Local Businesses Celebrate Drug-Free Workplace Week**

*Executives from Thomas Glass Company, Inc., Elford, Inc. Construction Services, and The TARRIER Steel Co., describe benefits of drug-free workplace programs*

(Columbus, OH) – Executives from several prominent Ohio companies came together today to highlight the benefits to their respective companies after implementing drug-free workplace programs. The gathering was part of the U. S. Department of Labor's *Drug-Free Workplace Week* campaign which is celebrated nationally October 14-20, 2007.

Patricia Harmon, Executive Director of Drug-Free Action Alliance, the organization that hosted the gathering, welcomed participants by thanking them for committing their companies to adopting drug-free workplace programs. "Your strong stance against condoning alcohol and other drug abuse in the workplace is a positive step toward changing damaging societal norms. Along with the economic savings, your efforts are saving lives and improving the health and well-being of our community's families," Harmon stated.

Leading the panel discussion was Dee Mason, President of *Working Partners®*. *Working Partners®* has teamed with Thomas Glass Company, Elford, Inc. Construction Services, and The TARRIER Steel Co. to help them implement successful drug-free workplace programs.

Andy Gum, President of the Thomas Glass Company agreed with the importance of implementing drug-free initiatives. The establishment of their program was a factor in Thomas Glass' national recognition from a field of 650 companies when they won the prestigious Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC) Safety Award. "Safety translates directly into a better workplace and bottom line ... dollars" says Gum.

Shelley Davis-Parrish, Controller/Safety Director of The TARRIER Steel Co. agrees with that. She shared that by operating their drug-free workplace program the severity of their workplace accidents diminished substantially saving them a measurable \$200,000 annually.

"There are over 9,000 employers who are receiving discounts on their workers' compensation premiums because they are implementing this safety program," according to Rick Brown from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. He said, "Statistically, operating drug-free workplaces drives down the frequency and severity of accidents and can definitely improve the quality of life in a workforce."

There are amazing benefits that employers don't expect once they commit to being a drug-free workplace as demonstrated by Colleen Rains, Director of H.R. for Elford, Inc. Construction Services. "We supported a man in our company as he faced his addiction problem several years ago. Then as a result of what he learned, he was able to help a friend who was facing the potentially downward spiral of his adolescent's experimentation and use of marijuana."

Mason went on to say that, "*Drug-Free Workplace Week* is a fitting time to remind employers and employees that remaining alcohol and drug-free in the workplace is an essential part of keeping workplaces safe. Although *Drug-Free Work Week* is a dedicated time each year to place special emphasis on the importance of working drug free, in a safe and healthy workplace, **every** week should be *Drug-Free Work Week*."

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Red Ribbon Celebration

College Initiative to Reduce High Risk Drinking

Ohio Resource Network Clearinghouse

Statewide Prevention Coalition Association

Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking

Volunteers In Prevention

Know!

Youth Philanthropy Council

Coalition Against Meth