

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

We've heard some concerning news and thought you would like to know about it. The word on the street is that you might have knowingly allowed youth under age 21 to consume alcohol. This information is very troubling and, if true, we are BEGGING you to stop!

You may have provided alcohol because you think "teens are going to drink anyway," or because they're "safe" under your watch. Research actually proves the opposite. There is no "responsible use" of alcohol by minors. Not only does allowing minors to consume alcohol send a message that some laws are meant to be broken, but adolescent drinking may bring about a host of dangers and lifelong ramifications. As adults, we must do everything in our power to protect youth and that means keeping alcohol out of their hands.

Our community is working to eradicate underage drinking in order to protect area kids and teens. We're making great progress. A recent survey of Kansas City Northland parents shows that 99% of parents aren't providing alcohol to those under 21. Will you join this majority to help us keep area youth safe?

Here are just a few of the risks associated with underage drinking:

- Health: Because the brain is not yet fully developed and is very vulnerable during the teen years, youth who drink alcohol underage are much more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who wait until 21. Any quantity of alcohol can have damaging effects on the adolescent brain.
- Safety: Underage drinking is associated with increases in drug use, sexual activity, violence, and traffic crashes.
- Legal: Missouri has strict laws against underage drinking and you can be held personally responsible and sued for anything that happens as a result of your giving alcohol, or knowingly allowing, minors to drink.

Sincerely,

A Concerned (*circle one*):    Parent            Neighbor            Teen            Community Member