

**Y**outh With Vision serves as the youth advisory council for our three county, Northland Coalition in Kansas City. These amazing high school advocacy leaders have been nationally recognized for their work in developing public policies. Some of the ordinances/laws they have helped to pass are: Smoke free businesses, keg registration, social host laws, MIP by consumption, ban of AWOL devices and banning synthetic drugs. Their most recent success has been



working with the KC Chamber of Commerce and HCF to pass Tobacco 21 ordinances in the greater K.C. area. In the past year, 22 greater KC area municipalities (in MO and KS) passed Tobacco 21. These communities include Gladstone, Kansas City and Liberty, in the Northland.

These students spend hours researching the needs of their local community to construct ways to combat important public health concerns. The youth involved understand and advocate for policies, ordinances, and laws that will raise awareness of an issue, benefit the community, and ultimately change public perceptions. It is the shifting of these perceptions that reduces substance use.

