**Q. What is Community YouthMapping?**
A. Community YouthMapping connects youth and adults in identifying existing resources and opportunities for youth in our community. Teams of YouthMappers, who are supervised by adult team leaders, conduct formal interviews with managers and leaders of businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith-based communities, City sites and City schools to identify existing programs and services as well as gaps in current resources.

**Q. Why is Alexandria conducting Community YouthMapping?**
A. Research conducted with Alexandria young people has shown that some middle and high school youth feel disconnected from the community and that too many youth use and abuse alcohol, drugs and tobacco. In addition, there is a need to prevent adolescent pregnancy and gang behavior. Community YouthMapping will highlight existing resources for youth as well as service gaps in one section of the City of Alexandria. With this information, policy makers will be better able to address the needs of youth in our community and help prevent risky behaviors. In addition, through the process of mapping the community's resources, youth will build important skills and become more engaged in the community.

**Q. Where and when will Community YouthMapping take place in Alexandria?**
A. This summer, from July11 through August 19, 20 young people from Alexandria will visit businesses and organizations throughout the City's East End to gather information about specific resources for youth, including places to go and things to do in the East End.

**Q. What will the Mappers do and what is the outcome of the project?**
A. Teams of YouthMappers, ages 15 to 18, who are supervised by adult team leaders, will walk the streets of East End neighborhoods to conduct formal interviews with managers and leaders of businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith-based communities, City sites and City schools. They will ask about existing programs and services, as well as explore perceptions about such issues as youth substance abuse, teen pregnancy and gang activity. Mappers will input the research data into a database that will be accessible to youth, service providers, City and school officials, and policymakers. The database will include types of services and opportunities for youth in the East End, ages served, eligibility criteria, languages spoken, accessibility, transportation, and more. Once the mapping is completed, Mappers will develop a presentation that showcases the findings of their research as well as their recommendations. They will be able to highlight existing resources as well as service gaps, street by street, in Alexandria's East End.

**Q. Why was the East End of Alexandria chosen for Community YouthMapping?**
A. The West End of the City was mapped last year. This year the East End will be mapped to develop an overall picture of the resources available to children, youth and families in Alexandria.

**Q. Who will supervise the Community YouthMappers?**
A. The Mappers will be supervised by several adult team leaders from the Alexandria Health Department, the Office on Women and Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy, SAPCA, and

college interns.  The Community YouthMapping effort will be supervised by the coordinator of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA).  Community YouthMapping is a youth-adult partnership.  While youth are the key stakeholders in planning, collection, analysis and dissemination of the data, adults provide technical, political and personal support.

**Q.  Who are the Mappers and how were they selected?**
A.  Community YouthMappers are 20 residents of the City of Alexandria, ages 15-18, who were selected by youth services organizations in Alexandria and approved by Alexandria's Job-Link.  Each mapping team will be comprised of four Mappers who earn a minimum wage for their work.

**Q.  What are the benefits of Community YouthMapping for Alexandria?**
A.  Mapping provides valuable information to public officials, policymakers and citizens about what programs currently exist for youth and where there may be gaps in City programs and services.

**Q.  What are the benefits of Community YouthMapping for the Mappers?**
A.  Mapping is an opportunity for youth to build skills in interviewing, data collection, data management, geography, team building, communication and conflict resolution.  It is also a way for youth to become more knowledgeable about the Alexandria community and its services.  It is expected that through involvement in Community YouthMapping, participants will become more engaged in the community, thus reducing the possibility of engaging in risky behaviors.

**Q.  Who is organizing the Community YouthMapping project?**
A. Community YouthMapping in Alexandria is a special project of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) and its partners: Office on Women and Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy; Alexandria City Public Schools; Alexandria Community Services Board; Alexandria Fire Department; Alexandria Health Department, Alexandria Police Department; Alexandria Recreation Department; Alexandria Sheriff's Department; Job-Link; and the Partnership for Healthier Alexandria.

**Q.  Are youth Mappers involved in the project after August 13?**
A.  Although their paid work for Community YouthMapping will conclude on August 19 when the Mappers will present the results of their research, the organizers hope to involve participants in sharing those findings and recommendations with elected officials, policymakers, community leaders and residents during the fall months.

**Q.  Has Community YouthMapping been implemented in other communities?**
Community YouthMapping has been implemented in more than 130 sites across the United States and in several countries around the world.  The Academy for Educational Development (AED) Center for Youth Development and Policy Research is assisting with Alexandria's program.  www.aed.org

**For more information, contact Noraine Butar, SAPCA Coordinator, 703-746-3670, www.preventitalexandria.org**