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## **Clinton Goes Purple to Stand Up Against Substance Abuse**

Leading up to Chris Herren's talk on October 6<sup>th</sup>, Friends of Clinton Youth and Family Services Bureau has joined forces with the Pretty Committee to paint Clinton purple. Why Purple? Purple is The Herren Project's signature color representing teens and people of all ages who make positive decisions and are proud of who they are. Guilford, who also hosted Chris Herren in 2015, has lent Clinton over 500 purple flags to use to decorate. Pretty Committee Chairperson, Jane Scully Welch, has called out to all Clintonians, "You will start seeing purple soon – embrace it and plan on attending this important community presentation." The Pretty Committee and Morgan School student volunteers are starting their decorating on September 24<sup>th</sup>; anyone interested in helping contact Jane Scully Welch, at 860-669-7086 or [scullywelch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scullywelch@sbcglobal.net).

At 7pm On October 6<sup>th</sup>, at the new Morgan School gym, the Friends of Clinton Youth and Family Services Bureau is hosting Chris Herren, former NBA basketball player, author and sobriety advocate, to speak at a community-wide event for parents and caretakers. The goals of this event is to create awareness and educate the public on the epidemic of substance abuse while encouraging teens and people of all ages to make positive decisions. Given the rise in drug overdose cases along the shoreline and in Connecticut-- this is a timely and very important issue for families to discuss. All are welcome to attend this free event on October 6th. Wear purple to show your support. Friends of CYFSB will be selling purple t-shirts at the door. Chris is also speaking to the students at The Morgan School and Jared Eliot Middle School on October 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>.

Since 2009, Chris Herren has spoken to audiences nationwide sharing his story in the hopes of reaching just one person and making a difference in their lives. As a result of his public speaking efforts in addition to the publication of his memoir, *Basketball Junkie* and the ESPN Films documentary, *UnGuarded*, literally thousands of young adults and individuals have come forward asking for help for themselves or a loved one who may be struggling with issues of substance abuse. Copies of *Basketball Junkie* and *UnGuarded* are available at the Henry Carter Hull Library.

This event has been generously supported by Clinton sports and civic organizations, as well as generous donations from local merchants. This event was the recipient of two grants from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and the Huisling Foundation. For more information on how you can support this community outreach, contact Friends of Clinton Youth and Family Services Bureau at [friendsofcyfsb@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcyfsb@gmail.com), or like Friends of Clinton Youth and Family Services Facebook page to learn more about the upcoming event, <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfCYFSB>