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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Binge drinking never good despite cause

Drug-Free Action Alliance is extremely concerned with the April 13 *Dispatch* article "They'll drink to health," which described a fundraiser that benefited the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Central Ohio chapter. The article highlighted and glorified high-risk drinking and condoned binge drinking. Participating in philanthropic efforts is noble, yet advancing these causes in an unsafe manner is risky and unhealthy.

Most adults who consume alcoholic beverages do so in safe and healthy amounts. For others, unsafe drinking patterns increase their risk of injury, illness or future health problems. Ironically, April is Alcohol Awareness Month and is specifically set aside to focus on the disease of alcoholism and educating people on the health risks associated with problem drinking.

The average consumption per person was reported to be "about 10 12-ounce cups" of beer. This amount

more than doubles the definition of binge drinking as set by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Providing intoxicated participants with \$10 cab vouchers does not make the event "safe." When people participate in high-risk drinking they increase their risk for serious long- and short-term health problems and compromise their safety through an increased risk of unintentional injuries, sexual assaults and violence.

No matter how laudable the cause, society ought not condone high-risk behaviors. There are many safer and healthier ways to raise funds.

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