

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2004, approximately 10.8 million drinkers were under legal age (ages 12-20); and

WHEREAS, alcohol use among children and adolescents starts early and increases rapidly with age; and

WHEREAS, by the time they reach the eighth grade, nearly 44 percent of adolescents have used alcohol illegally and more than 20 percent have been "drunk;" and

WHEREAS, underage alcohol use is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined; and

WHEREAS, 27% of Thomas County youth reported using alcohol at least one time in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, the average age of first use in Thomas County is 13.25; and

WHEREAS, family factors, such as parent-child relationships, discipline methods, communication, monitoring and parental involvement, exert a significant influence on youth alcohol use; and

WHEREAS, children, with the care and support from family, friends, health professionals, teachers, clergy, and others can avoid the negative effects of alcohol and drugs; and

WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services and Colby High School SADD members invite all residents of Thomas County to participate in the *Reach Out Now Teach In*;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Ron Evans, Ken Christiansen, and Paul Steele Commissioners of Thomas County, Kansas do hereby proclaim **April 3-7, 2006** as

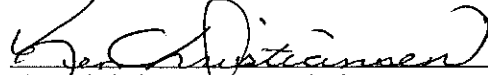
### ***REACH OUT NOW TEACH-IN WEEK***

in Thomas County, and encourage parents, caregivers, and all residents of Thomas County to prevent underage alcohol use by teaching children about the harmful effects of underage alcohol use and how they can resist pressure to get involved in the use of alcohol.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Thomas County, Kansas, this 20th day of April, 2006.



Ron Evans, Commissioner

  
Ken Christiansen, Commissioner  
Paul Steele, Commissioner