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**REALITY CHECK SPONSORS YOUTH EVENT
FEATURING NATIONALLY REKNOWNED SPEAKER RICK STODDARD**

Syracuse, NY—Reality Check of Onondaga and Cayuga County, programs of Prevention Network, is sponsoring an exciting event for youth to meet nationally renowned speaker, Rick Stoddard, on Wednesday, March 19th, from 3:30 to 5:00pm at the Canteen. The Canteen is located at 8837 Brewerton Road, Brewerton, NY 13029. The event is free and open to the public. All teens and their parents are welcome to attend. In addition, Reality Check will be offering door prizes and raffles during the event.

In addition to his appearance at the Canteen, Mr. Stoddard is scheduled to speak at closed presentations sponsored by Reality Check at Jordan Elbridge High School on Wednesday, and at Corcoran High School and Grant Middle School on Thursday.

Rick Stoddard speaks to youth and adults across the nation about the dangers of tobacco use and the manipulative marketing tactics of the tobacco industry. He is known for his ability to captivate and reach students of every level, motivate thoughtful discussions, and hopefully, change behaviors. He travels across America with the inspirational story of how he has dealt with the loss of his wife, Marie, to lung cancer caused by cigarette smoking in 1999, and he looks forward to bringing his message to the Central New York community. He is the author of [The Burning Truth](#) and a recipient of multiple awards for his courageous actions in his fight against cancer and big tobacco. To learn more about Rick Stoddard, visit his website at: www.rickstoddard.com

Reality Check is a youth-led movement created by the New York State Department of Health Tobacco Control Program in 2000. Its participants are committed to exposing the manipulative and deceptive marketing practices of the tobacco industry. It is funded by the New York State Department of Health Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program. For more information, contact Onondaga Country Reality Check Program Coordinator Elizabeth Toomey at (315) 471-1359 or btoomey@PreventionNetwork.info or Cayuga County Reality Check Program Coordinator Karen Darling at (315) 252-1146 or kdarling@PreventionNetwork.info