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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Top Secret Project: Decoding the Mysteries of the Teen Domain

Looks can be deceiving.

That's the message behind the Top Secret Project, a free traveling exhibit coming to St. Francis High School, 3325 Bridge St. N.W., February 22 from 6-8:30 p.m.

Offered in partnership with Anoka County, area schools, and the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, the Top Secret Project aims to help parents and other concerned community members understand how ordinary objects found in a teen's bedroom, such as books, candles, dental floss, lip balm, and more may point to potentially risky behavior, such as alcohol and/or drug use; self-harm; eating disorders; bullying; or criminal or gang activity.

The Top Secret Project gives parents the opportunity to walk through a full-size mock-up of a typical teen's bedroom to try to spot some of the dozens of everyday items that may be cause for concern. The event will also include a resource fair featuring representatives from area law enforcement and community agencies, including Lee Carlson Center; Nystrom & Associates; Know the Truth, the prevention program of MN Adult & Teen Challenge; and Alexandra House. The walk-through exhibit is followed by a presentation and discussion with Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation staff.

"We all want to help our children safely navigate the teen years, but we can't do that if we don't know what to look for," said Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah, chair, Anoka County Board. "The Top Secret Project offers invaluable insight and resources for parents to help them identify warning signs that are often hiding in plain sight."

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In addition to the bedroom display and presentation by Hazelden staff, Top Secret events include youth activities (grade 5 and up), prize drawings, free pizza, and experts speaking on the risks of drug use and other issues facing young people.

Participants are asked to pre-register for this FREE event at anokacounty.us/TopSecretRegistration22 or by calling 763-324-1555.

Learn more at anokacounty.us/TopSecret.

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