

# UCS News Release

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For Immediate Release:  
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## Free Middle School Skate Night at Riley Rink

Bennington and Manchester, Vt. — United Counseling Service and the Southshire Substance Abuse Coalition are sponsoring another free skate at Riley Rink! Cosponsoring organizations include The Collaborative, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and DuFour Tours.

Friday, February 5th, students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be admitted free-of-charge to skate at Riley Rink in Manchester from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. Two buses will be available for students to take to Riley Rink. Buses will load at the Bennington Rec. Center. Buses will leave promptly at 5:45pm and return at 10pm.

Middle School Students from any school in Bennington County and adjacent areas will be admitted for the free program. Skate rentals cost \$6 and are not included, but bring your own skates if you have them! Students will be asked to provide a school ID except for 6th graders.

“At UCS, we treat people with substance abuse problems,” Community Relations Director Robert Pini said. “But preventing substance abuse in the first place is our goal. When we offer these healthy alternatives to our community, we do just that.”

“Our hope is to provide local youth with fun, affordable, substance free activities. In addition to skate nights, we’re looking for youth who are interested in learning how plan substance-free events like movie nights or dances,” said Kerri MacLaury, Program Manager at the Southshire Substance Abuse Coalition. “It’s great when we can organize events and we want to pass that know-how onto our youth!”

The free skate is one of a series of events that offers area youth a healthy, substance-free social alternative. Contact Kerri MacLaury with questions at 442-5491 x 522.

UCS serves children, adults, families, and seniors through nationally recognized counseling, early care and education, and clinical support. The Southshire Substance Abuse Coalition promotes a safe and healthy community by advocating for healthy attitudes and behaviors regarding substance use.

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### Caption:

Middle School Skates are fun! Friday, February 5th, students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be admitted free-of-charge to skate at Riley Rink in Manchester from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.