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Gordie Foundation brings speaker

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Hillsdale College's Gordie Foundation group hosted its biggest event in its three years of existence on March 21.

The Gordie Foundation, founded in honor of Gordie Bailey, a student from the University of Colorado who died from alcohol poisoning due to hazing practices, brought in Melanie Carroll, program coordinator, to speak to students about the dangers of alcohol misuse.

"Her speech was stats and talking about other incidents and how frequent they are," sophomore and external affairs representative of the club Hannah Treppa said. "She was very effective and well-received."

Carroll also talked about the dangers of alcohol and binge drinking.

"Students need to be aware and understand that if they drink too much they may not wake up in the morning," sophomore and foundation president Jimmie Plaskey said.

But that is not the only goal of the foundation, Treppa said.

"It's not just abstaining from alcohol, it's about regulating alcohol use," she said.

The speaker came to remind students to drink responsibly over break and be aware of the risks.

"The whole point is to look out for people," Wiska said. "You don't think, 'Hey, my friend won't wake up.' It can be disturbing but it's a real need."

Plaskey, Treppa and Ryon Wiska, junior and secretary of the foundation, agreed that even though Hillsdale is a smaller school, the Gordie Foundation is an important organization to have on all college campuses.

"It's part of Hillsdale, and it's a part of all colleges," Treppa said. "It is on a smaller scale at Hillsdale, but it's still a need."

Even though Hillsdale students are generally different from other college students, that doesn't mean drinking doesn't happen, Wiska said.

"College students are still going to drink wherever they are," he said.

Student Federation and the Inter-Fraternity Council contributed money to the event.

The Gordie Foundation is also selling T-shirts. Before spring break they had sold about 35 of the 100 T-shirts.

This is the group's first year to raise funds, Wiska said.

"There hasn't been a lot of fundraising practices," he said. "The biggest thing we've done is bring in [the Gordie Foundation speaker]."

The Gordie Foundation also put up posters around campus to raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol abuse. The dead girl on the poster serves as a shocking reminder.

"It's just a powerful poster for people to look at and say, 'that could've been one of my friends,'" Plaskey said.

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