For more than 10 years, hundreds of students have packed Emagine Theater in Novi the day before Election Day for an all-night movie marathon to raise money for a local charity and learn about dangers of drug use.

Put on by Novi Youth Council, in partnership with the Novi Police and Fire Departments and Emagine Entertainment, the Addicted to Movies, Not Drugs event continues to grow in popularity with nearly 500 students participating last year.

“Addicted to Movies is a great way to take a break from school and make new friends while not having to worry about being tired the following day,” said Alice Ying, secretary for Novi Youth Council.

The event takes place on Monday, Nov. 6 from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. at Emagine Novi. Tickets are only $10 and include four movies, unlimited popcorn and fountain drinks, pizza and breakfast snacks. Students must purchase the tickets online at cityofnovi.org in advance as the event sells out every year and tickets are not available at the door.

Ying said the main focus of the event is to “decrease the rate of drug use among students” because “there are more appropriate recreational activities to participate in that are neither destructive to your health nor illegal.”

Novi Youth Council Social Media Coordinator Maithleen Sathe echoed her fellow council member’s comments saying the event is “meant to show kids they can still have a good time within a safe environment.”

The students typically have between six to eight movies to choose from throughout the night, with the ability to see four of them. Movies are announced a few weeks prior to the event on the City of Novi’s Facebook page and website, and are all new releases.

“I love seeing hundreds of students from Novi and neighboring communities come out as one in order to support a great cause,” said Ying. “Every year the event reaches its maximum capacity, and it’s reassuring to witness the impact this event has had on students.”

Addicted to Movies, Not Drugs is open to local students in grades 7-12, and a current student ID will be required at check-in. Students are not permitted to leave the event unless they are not feeling well, and a parent must come inside the theater to check them out. This is a true lock-in, with members of Novi Youth Council, the police and fire departments, City Council and city staff serving as volunteer chaperones.

“It’s an excellent deal,” said Sathe. “What can beat a bunch of movies, popcorn, pizza and breakfast for only $10, while also being a great opportunity to spend time with friends while still making a difference?”

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit cityofnovi.org or call (248) 735-5628.