

Manitoba Addictions Awareness Week

Created 1998

3. It Takes a Community To Raise a Child

This African proverb is becoming well known. But how does it apply to us. Do we get involved when we see neighbourhood children misbehaving? Perhaps the best response is to make sure that there are positive alternatives for children who are misbehaving. Communities need leaders to volunteer for clubs, groups, and people less fortunate than ourselves. Many scout leaders and hockey coaches have been dramatic influences to the children and youth they work with. Such leaders could play a strong factor in helping youth mould their attitudes towards alcohol, smoking, and the use other drugs. The message given to the members of the team or group can be offered in a positive informative way. How can we encourage more groups to make addiction prevention as part of their goal?

4. Talk about it

Leading groups is only part of it. We can be supportive to the youth, family member or colleague that is struggling - simply by letting them know we are there and are willing to listen. We can also *raise our voices for healthy choices* at forums and meetings about addiction issues and offer our opinions for solutions. When we see things that do not fit with what we feel is suitable, do anything but ignore it!

5. Take a stand

Intervening is necessary, but in some situations it can be threatening. We need to be prepared and to be safe, but we need to take a stand in how we want our community to be. How can we best prepare for this positive stand?

It is our hope that by having you participate in this year's Addictions Awareness Week, we can add to a growing number of voices striving to achieve healthy choices for all.

Contact us

Please confirm your attendance and participation. If you wish to be included in our event please call us. If you wish to be part of the planning committee, - you guessed it! -please call us. You can phone (name) at (number) to set up the details of the event.

Sincerely yours,