

# Manitoba Addictions Awareness Week

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Created 1998

## INVITE LEADERS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE 1998 MANITOBA ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK ACTIVITIES

### *Raising our Voices for Healthy Choices*

We all can be lead down a path to addiction. What makes us different from those that are addicted? Chances are there was a *significant someone* in our lives that helped to make a difference. The following eight commitments are probably what guided our *significant someone*. Maybe they can prompt us and other leaders to help guide others....

*Loving your own child is easy; caring about other children takes a special commitment. Let the following eight promises guide your actions:*

1. *I will speak out on behalf of any child I believe may be neglected or abused without worrying that "It's none of my business."*
2. *I shall reach out to one parent or child in my community who may need a kind, compassionate ear, and let her know that someone does care.*
3. *Before I cast my vote, I will make sure my candidate supports policies, laws and a government that will put the interests of our nation's children above all else.*
4. *I will support a charity or nonprofit group not only with financial contributions, but with a more personal contribution of my time.*
5. *I will teach my children to care about and help another child they may think is in trouble, and I will praise my children whenever they demonstrate compassion for another.*
6. *I will show my children the joy of a helper's high derived from giving and volunteering.*
7. *I will make sure my children learn to respect the elderly by encouraging them to visit, talk with, and even help senior citizens in our neighbourhood.*
8. *My family will become more giving by donating our excess clothing, toys, etc., to charities. And I resolve to give thanks and to share our blessing with those who are less fortunate.*

*Family Circle 6/4/96*

### *Why Get Involved?*

The above article outlines the commitment that children need from adults to help them become the best citizens they can be. This year our MAAW theme is ***Raising our Voices for Healthy Choices***. If we all recognized the importance of contributing our talents, time and voices, the issue of violence, gangs, addictions could be greatly reduced. We all have some leadership skills. Compare our leadership skills to most peoples' singing ability; most of us can not sing well, but we can all sing. However if we put our voices together we could come up with a pretty awesome choir. The