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Kaukauna 962's Jerry Brien's Thoughts on Drug Awareness



Drug Awareness Program

In joining Kaukauna Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Board (KATODA) several years ago it was my goal to partner the Kaukauna 962 Elks with this city organization which was sending a drug awareness message to our youth. There was no need to be a separated group; Drug Awareness has to be a total community commitment.

The Elks National Drug Awareness Program strives to teach all children and parents about the dangers of illegal drug use and prevent the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs. As the largest volunteer drug awareness program in the United States, the program relies on state, district and Lodge volunteers to promote a drug-free lifestyle. By taking pride in America's communities and youth, the program takes action against youth drug use through education and inspiration. The Elks take pride in the community. Since 1982, the Elks have developed an effective, community-based drug prevention program by partnering with federal agencies including the Drug Enforcement Agency, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and other national organizations. These partnerships ensure the Elks Drug Awareness Program addresses the leading drug abuse issues facing communities today. Elks believe that the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. With that in mind, the Elks Drug Awareness Program reaches out to youth of all ages and backgrounds. Every year, the Elks Drug Awareness Program hands out more than seven million pieces of anti-drug literature to parents, teachers and kids. From a young age, the Drug Awareness Program asks kids to think about what it means to be drug free.

The Elks have recently developed a website to invite kids to learn more about drug awareness. It is called elkskidszone.org. This is a site geared to children of all ages and also encourages adults to also view its contents. The next part of this article gives an overview of what you might expect.

In partnering with Marvel Comics, The "Avengers" are helping the Elks combat Bullying, Under Age Drinking and the Abuse of Pharmaceutical Drugs. The Avengers battle alien robots to show our children that if they are being bullied and pressured to use Alcohol and Pharmaceutical drugs they can always find help and that they are "Never Alone" because help



is available and do not be afraid to ask for that help. Elroy the Elk teams with Spiderman and the Fantastic Four to show kids how to make the right choices.

Crossword puzzles allow kids to navigate through the dangers of alcohol, bullying, depressants, steroids, gambling, marijuana, stimulants, and tobacco. Others educate about areas such as conflict-resolution, feelings, grief, self-esteem, stress, and success.

Whether you're young or old, you're never too old to learn something! The Elks Drug Awareness Program makes this possible through a series of 3 to 5 minute videos, with a message from Milton Creagh, a National Motivational speaker. As Milton says: "We live...we learn." These messages take a look at processing the information we get from the events of every-day life; and learning a lesson from that information....good or bad. These messages are appropriate for Middle Schools; High Schools; parents; and church and civic groups. Topics include: "Changing Your Lifestyle"; "Work Ethics"; "Helping Others" and a variety of topics related to substance abuse. Kids can download these videos to hear these important messages. There are 62 videos available to help them through many life decisions. It is recommended that adults also view these videos as a source to help in talking with their children.



Younger kids can interact with the online coloring books. Currently there are 2 available; Veteran's Day and I Choose Not to Use. Kids can go back several times to the pages to color or print them off and use their own colors.

Another section which is good for older kids and adults deals with the following subjects: Parent's Guide to Preventing Inhalant Abuse, How can I tell if my child is using drugs, The Truth about Marijuana, Drug Dealers, Prescription Drugs, and Mom and Dad Use Drugs.



Elroy the Elk talks about the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition, Fruits & Veggies – More Matters, The People's Garden, Team Nutrition, Know Your Farmer Know Your Food, Choose My Plate, and Michelle Obama's Fitness Tip Challenge. This area is interactive and full of great facts. Kids can learn about Flag Day, Memorial Day, and Veteran's Day.

The Kaukauna Elks are proud to be part of a community venture to keep our community safe from drugs and to help kids make good decisions. Take the time to check out the website. Feel free to contact us at 766-2649 with questions or if we can

provide literature to you.

Jerry Brien, Kaukauna & Wisconsin Elks Drug Awareness Chairman

Submitted by George "Pete" Decatur

Send comments to webmaster@virginiaelks.org