

A. C. E. S.

ASSOCIATION FOR COUNSELING, EDUCATION & SUPPORT
(A Private Non-Profit Agency)
1933 Market Street, Suite "C"
Redding, CA 96001

Telephone: (530) 241-9276
Fax: (530) 241-0114

E-Mail: jamie@acesassociation.com
linda@acesassociation.com

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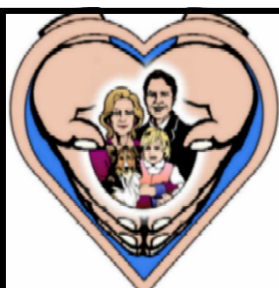
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A.C.E.S. MISSION STATEMENT

The Association for Counseling, Education and Support is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment in which a comprehensive range of therapeutic and empowering services are made available to the families of our community, while making ongoing diligent efforts to assess, identify and remove any barriers to access. These programs are designed to allow individuals and families to grow in a positive and wholesome way, and allow them to celebrate the importance and sanctity of family.



"Dedicated to a true revival of the Sanctity of Family"

We're on the Web!
Visit us at acesassociation.com

A.C.E.S. IN ACTION NEWSLETTER

Association for
Counseling, Education & Support
(A. C. E. S.)

Volume 4, Issue 4
October 2008

Welcome to Winter 2008 Just Around the Corner!



Welcome to Winter for 2008 is just around the corner. Scheduled for Sunday, October 26, 2008 at Anderson River Park, the F.A.C.E.S. Youth Group promises some exciting activities to attract the attention of all participants, from the youngest to the oldest.

There will be an exciting array of games and prizes for all participants, in addition to lots of good food and drinks. Festivities begin at 12:00 p.m. and will conclude at 5:00 p.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Article on Drug Abuse	2
A Message from our Board Chairman	3
A Poem to Remember	3
Opportunities to Get Involved	3
A.C.E.S. Personal Information	4
A.C.E.S. Boards and Committees	4
A.C.E.S. Logo, Mission Statement, Website Info	4

A Legislative Update: High School Exit Exam Bill on Governor's Desk

Senate Bill 1446 (Romero), is now on the Governor's desk, waiting for his signature. This bill exempts, until December 31, 2009, all students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), who have completed all other requirements for graduation, from the requirement that they must pass the high school exit exam as a condition of receiving a diploma.

Senate Bill 1446 (Romero), is considered to be an urgency bill, and will take effect as soon as the bill is signed by the Governor. It will apply to all students who are otherwise eligible to graduate in June.

A companion bill, Assembly Bill 2040 (Nunez), will provide a framework to establish regulations to allow students with an IEP, to obtain a high school diploma by using an alternate assessment of their skills. If Assembly Bill 2040 becomes law, those regulations will be in place by December 31, 2009 per the conditions stated in Senate Bill 1446.

A.C.E.S. is recruiting new members. If you know someone who would like to join the A.C.E.S. family, please call us at 241-9276.

TEENAGE DRUG ABUSE



PARENTS PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MAY POSE RISK TO TEENS!

According to a national survey released on Thursday, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse states that some parents are dropping the ball on preventing their kids from using drugs, drinking and smoking. Those parents who don't safeguard their medications are, likewise, putting their teenagers at serious risk of addiction to prescription drugs, as well. Teenagers that were recently surveyed said that it's easier to buy narcotics than beer. Nearly half of the 17-year-olds who participated in the survey said they have at least one friend who abuses prescription drugs. This study surveyed 1,002 youths, ages 12 to 17, along with more than 300 of their parents. The study found that more than one-third of the prescription drugs illegally obtained by teens came from their homes.

Evidence of the Problem:

Health experts not involved in the survey agree that teenagers raiding the family medicine cabinet are a growing problem—many of the youths quickly become hooked on such powerful opiates as Vicodin and OxyContin. Recent studies show that opiates trail only marijuana as the most commonly abused class of illegal drugs among adolescents.

While illegal drug use among teenagers has dropped by 25 percent since 2001, the number of teens using Vicodin has not budged, and the number of teens using OxyContin has risen by 25 percent, according to statistics provided by the Office of National Drug Control. "This problem has quietly and insidiously grown into a big problem," said Tom Riley, a spokesman for the agency. It's not a creepy guy in an overcoat pushing drugs—this is about medications that are in your home. Prescription drugs are the drug of choice for teens who are trying drugs for the first time. They are getting drugs from their parents' medicine cabinets."

In an effort to better control online drug sales, Senator Dianne Feinstein, D-CA, is sponsoring legislation to require businesses that distribute controlled substances through the Internet to register with the Drug Enforcement Administration. The bill passed in the Senate in April and awaits a vote in the House. The bill was prompted by the fatal Vicodin overdose of Ryan Haight, a 17-year-old in San Diego who bought the painkiller online.

Warning Signs of Abuse:

Dean Blumberg, Program Manager with Kaiser Permanente's Chemical Dependency Recovery Program, says that warning signs can initially appear to be the hallmarks of adolescence: mood swings, irritability, altered sleep patterns. But chronic drug users, he says, have more telltale symptoms that parents should heed: groggy demeanor, pinpoint pupils, nasal irritation, paranoia, weight loss, depression, truancy and falling grades.

In similarly urging parents to pay closer attention, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse prescribes some very old fashioned remedies including better monitoring of kids on school nights and more time around the family dinner table.

Safeguarding Prescription Drugs: Tips for parents from the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign

Keep Track: Take note of how many pills are in a bottle or pill packet, and keep track of refills.

Set Rules: Set Clear rules for teens about all drug use, including not sharing medicine and always follow the medical provider's advice and dosage.

Follow Rules: Be a good role model by following these rules with your own medicines.

Dispose of Drugs Properly: Properly conceal and dispose of old or unused medicines in the trash.

Spread the Word: Ask friends and family to safeguard their prescription drugs.



A Message from
Joe Baudizzon,
Chairman of The
Board of Directors

The Association for Counseling, Education & Support (A.C.E.S.) has launched its Holiday Giving Program for 2008, and we are seeking your support to assist those families in need within the A.C.E.S. Family.

The giving program starts off with Thanksgiving, where we provide food boxes (everything needed for Thanksgiving dinner). For Christmas, we provide food boxes (everything needed for Christmas Dinner) and presents to many families, as well as presents to many seniors who are housed in area convalescent hospitals who have no family. Recipients are carefully selected by our clinical staff on the basis of their individual situations and level of need.

If you would like to donate to this very worthy cause, we will be happy to accept your cash donation if you would like us to do the shopping for you. If you would prefer to do your own shopping, you can choose to adopt a family, donate specific items for the food boxes, or stop by the office and select a tag or tags from the Giving Tree (available by November 28th, 2008) for the purchase of Christmas presents. If you choose to send a cash donation, you may send your check made payable to A.C.E.S. at your very earliest convenience. If you choose to donate specific items for the Thanksgiving food boxes, we would appreciate having them delivered to the office by November 24th, 2008. The holidays are approaching fast, so your prompt response will be greatly appreciated.

And in closing, may I extend my best wishes to all for a most wonderful holiday season and New Year.

Chairman of the Board

A POEM TO REMEMBER

A GRATEFUL HARVEST

The reminiscence of raisins
seems pointless and staunch,
They've lost their existence
of roundness and paunch.

Yes, pointless and boring
we let our lives lay,
But God gives us hope,
and it leads us to pray.

Lord, give our lives meaning,
our souls seek escapes,
Let us live with the succulence
of freshly picked grapes.

Anonymous

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED!

A.C.E.S. has the following fundraisers and programs/events scheduled for the next few months, and we can really use your help and assistance:

- Welcome to Winter on October 26, 2008
- Parking Lot Sale on November 8, 2008
(Any and all donations gladly accepted)
- Holiday Giving Program starting with Thanksgiving in November, and followed by Christmas in December
(Any and all donations accepted, including food, gifts, cash, etc.)
- Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap Program in December

If you would like to volunteer some time, make a donation or be part of any of the above programs, please contact the office at (530) 241-9276.