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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sedgwick County Health Department Supports World No Tobacco Day

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – Through a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) grant, the Sedgwick County Health Department is a local agent for the Kansas Tobacco Use Prevention Program. Part of that effort includes support of the Derby Community Coalition Promoting Healthy Choices. This group of Derby citizens works to reduce tobacco use and its deadly effects.

The vision of the Derby Community Coalition is that all youth in the Derby area are healthy, confident, and ready to make positive differences. Out of the Derby Community Coalition, the Derby Youth Leadership Council was born. This group of teens works to further the messages of the Derby Community Coalition among their peers.

Derby Community Coalition Promoting Healthy Choices is joining organizations worldwide to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco and secondhand smoke through World No Tobacco Day which is May 31. This yearly celebration

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informs the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what the World Health Organization (WHO) is doing to fight the tobacco epidemic, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and to protect future generations.

According to WHO, tobacco is the second major cause of death in the world. It is well known that half the people who smoke regularly today – about 650 million people – will eventually be killed by tobacco. Possibly more alarming is the fact that thousands of non-smokers die each year from diseases caused by breathing secondhand smoke.

The Derby Youth Leadership Council members will be participating in a training session on May 30th called Informing My Peers About Countering Tobacco. Look for their float in the Derby Days parade on June 1 at 6:30 p.m. Also, stop by their booth in the Derby High School Commons June 2nd from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. At the booth additional tobacco cessation information will be available and face painting for kids will be provided.

When Kansans are ready to quit tobacco, the toll-free Kansas Tobacco Quitline 1-866-KAN-STOP (1-866-526-7867) is there to help. Experienced cessation counselors work with the caller to prepare for a quit date and help them make a free personalized quit plan. The one-on-one telephone counseling sessions are scheduled at times convenient for the caller. Callers are encouraged to contact the Quitline as many times as possible to help them meet their goals.

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