



Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund

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On February 29, 2012, the Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund will host a day-long workshop in Parkersburg on the topic of Healthy Lifestyles with a particular focus on Childhood Obesity. The objectives include

- Summarizing current programs and accomplishments, primarily in the MOV, through brief presentations and handouts from 5 – 6 organizations/projects.
- Generating new energy and momentum in addressing this serious and pervasive health issue
- Exploring ways to further engage the faith community in this effort in various ways such as modeling healthy options, supporting improvements in policy, and incorporating activity and good nutrition in church programs/facilities.
- Engaging with staff from the Campaign for Healthy Kids [a national project funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to accelerate state and local policy change that will increase children's access to affordable healthy food and opportunities for physical activity] toward possible collaborations to advance mutual goals.

There is no cost and participation is open to all with an interest and commitment to this issue, particularly those with an interest and opportunity to engage faith communities in addressing this serious health issue. Lunch will be included.

The format will include

- brief presentations on programs in the MOV and/or that impact our area;
- role of the faith community in health promotion, by Vincent DeMarco, who successfully engaged faith leaders on the national level in the "Faith United Against Tobacco" campaign and also now to support effective efforts against childhood obesity.
- Overview of the mission and the resources of the Campaign for Health Kids, by Andrew Hysell, Director of the Campaign for Healthy Kids (www.campaignforhealthykids.org)
- Examples of how faith communities can and have engaged in working toward reducing childhood obesity by Sharon Becker, Health Ministries Coordinator at Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton, Ohio.
- Time for sharing ideas, opportunities, successes, questions by participants in order to develop practical "next steps" in working to reduce childhood obesity.

If you are interested in receiving more information and an invitation to register, please email rsteffen@ssjcharitablefund.org – thanks.