

What's happening at Lewis County



Changing Lives ... One family at a time



Recently the Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued a report from a 2010 survey tracking trends in domestic/dating violence, commonly referred to as IPV (Intimate Partner Violence). Many people may wonder how Intimate Partner Violence is related to the CDC, or why they would be so concerned with it. The CDC identifies Intimate Partner Violence as a significant public health issue. It effects the emotional and mental health of thousands of women and men each year. The study finds that Intimate Partner Violence starts early with 70% of female victims and 54% of male victims experiencing victimization prior to age 25. The data collected in these reports shows the importance of early age prevention before Intimate Partner Violence begins.

Lewis County Opportunities Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Program has been busy partnering with health teachers, home and careers teachers and after school programs to deliver nationally accredited curriculums to prevent intimate partner violence. Several local school districts and teachers are committed to creating an atmosphere in their classrooms where thoughtful discussion and instruction on healthy relationships, mutual respect, listening and communication skills are developed. In preparing our children for the future, isn't it important that we also prepare them for their future and current relationships? Some of our programs include Safe Dates, Expect Respect and Girls Circle. The instruction is very interactive and teaches students the difference between caring supportive relationships and abusive controlling relationships. The programs target attitudes and actions that are considered bullying and abusive. It encourages bystanders to speak out against these types of negative attitudes and behaviors. When peers and bystanders step up, get involved and say something like "that's not cool", it can go a long way and encourage an atmosphere of mutual respect. If you are a concerned educator or parent and would like more information please call 376-8202 ext. 4 or visit our website.

Has Opportunities helped you? Send your story to "News" at the address below.

Lewis County Opportunities, Inc.
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Monday - Friday: 8 am - 4 pm
www.lewiscountyopportunities.com

Opportunity Knocks Thrift Store
376-2981

24-hour Crisis Hotline
376-HELP (4357)