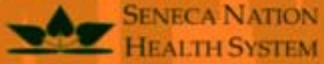


NOVEMBER 2024

NATIVE connections
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NEWSLETTER



www.senecanativeconnections.org

OCTOBER RECAP

One of the goals for the Prevention Department for the month of October was the reintegration of programming within the three school districts of the Tri-County area: Gowanda Central School, Lakeshore Middle and High School, and Silver Creek Central School. After working throughout the summer to make the necessary connections and arrangements, Cattaraugus Prevention was able to begin regular programming within both the Lakeshore middle and high schools, with Silver Creek following suit in November! Program Specialists will be providing prevention content to the 6th, 7th and 8th grades twice monthly, and four times monthly to high school students! Special thanks to Lakeshore's Title VI staff Lindsay John and Stacey Purpera for coordinating with the Prevention program in allowing for this opportunity! Specialists continue to work with representatives from the Gowanda and Silver Creek school districts with the hope of reintegrating within their districts as well.



John McLaughlin from Seneca Strong (back row, second from right) with Cattaraugus Reservation Community members during Paint Night

Prevention staff would like to thank John McLaughlin from Allegany's Seneca Strong program. John brought his artistic expertise to the Saylor building on Wednesday, October 23rd and assisted community residents with painting eagle feathers. Thanks so much, John!



O'gyëde:i'

"I learned about it"

This Month's Topic:

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon week is celebrated each year from October 23rd through October 31st. The movement was initiated after an incident that took place in Mexico in 1985, during which Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent, was tortured and killed while fulfilling the duties of his role. Family and friends of Kiki chose to honor his battle against illegal drugs by wearing red badges made of satin. Camarena's belief that "one person can make a difference" began to resonate through local communities, whereupon parents began creating coalitions in honor of Camarena with this belief in mind. These coalitions adopted the red ribbon symbol utilized in memory of Camarena, and today serves as one of the largest worldwide coalitions whose purpose is to educate our youth and adolescent populations on the dangers of mind changers and other illicit substances while encouraging participation in drug prevention activities. Over 80 million adults and adolescents participate in the movement annually, which is celebrated all across the world.

*For more information
about the Red Ribbon
Coalition, please visit
www.redribbon.org*



Mary Mohawk-Jensen is a lifelong resident of the Cattaraugus Territory. She is an enrolled Seneca and a member of the Turtle Clan. Mary graduated from Gowanda High School and has a degree in Conflict Studies from Hilbert College. Mary is the proud mother of two children as well as two grandchildren. Mary has worked with the Prevention Department for almost two years as of November 2024. She brings her extensive

knowledge of Seneca culture and traditions to the program while focusing her efforts towards giving back to the community to which she has always belonged. Mary does this not only through her role in the agency with the events and presentations she creates, but also on her own time through the relationships she has cultivated during their life. Mary is a huge fan of true crime documentaries and books, as well as music, art and spending time with her family.

Raymond Woodin is a lifelong resident of western New York and has lived in the Village of Cattaraugus for the past 16 years. Raymond graduated from Little Valley Central School and has a degree in Psychology with a focus in Addictions Counseling from Southern New Hampshire University. Raymond is the proud father of a teenage son and daughter. Raymond has worked with the Prevention Department since March of 2024. Ray brings a wealth of knowledge from his experience as a police officer, mental health counselor and substance abuse counselor, culminating in over 25 years of work in the human services field. Ray is a huge fan of creative writing, comedy, public speaking and ice hockey, which he plays in leagues across western New York.



CULTURE IS PREVENTION

CULTURAL PRACTICES ARE PROTECTIVE FACTORS THAT REDUCE THE RISK OF YOUTH ENGAGING IN SUBSTANCE MISUSE. LEARNING, PRACTICING AND KNOWING OUR CULTURE HAS POSITIVE EFFECTS ON MENTAL HEALTH, SELF-ESTEEM AND LOWERING THE RISK OF UTILIZING MIND CHANGERS AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

Upcoming Events for November!

NATIVE
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NOVEMBER 2024

"Culture is Prevention"

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>Location:</u> Cattaraugus Clubhouse Saylor Building 12661 Rt 436 Irving NY 14281</p>	<p><u>Phone:</u> 716-532-8223 Ext. 5688</p> <p><u>Facebook:</u> Seneca Native Connections</p>				1	2
3	4	Closed	6 Clubhouse 3:00pm-6:30pm	7 Clubhouse 3:00pm-6:30pm Medicine Pouch 6:00pm	8	9
10	Closed	12 Clubhouse 3:00pm-6:30pm Cornhusk Doll Making 6:00pm-8:00pm	13 Clubhouse 3:00pm-6:30pm Cornhusk Doll Making 6:00pm-8:00pm	14 Clubhouse 3:00pm-6:30pm	15	16
17	18	19 Clubhouse 3:00pm-6:30pm	20 Clubhouse 3:00pm-6:30pm	21 Clubhouse 3:00pm-6:30pm	22	23
24	25	26 Clubhouse 3:00pm-6:30pm	27 Clubhouse 3:00pm-6:30pm	28 Closed	29	30