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In the Spotlight with Michelle Korty- By Megan Randall

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ISSUE:**

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT
WITH
MICHELLE KORTY**

**READING AND DRUG
FREE IN HANCOCK
COUNTY**

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The Indiana Prevention Resource Center at Indiana University is funded, in part, by the Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction SAMHSA/Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. The IPRC is operated by the Department of Applied Health Science and School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. The IPRC is affiliated with the Institute for Drug Abuse Prevention.

The Indiana Prevention Resource Center's (IPRC) *In the Spotlight* prevention professional is Michelle Korty of Scottsburg, Indiana. Since 2001, Korty has demonstrated dedication to the field of substance abuse prevention and through serving others in the communities in Scott County as the Vice-Chair of Citizens Against Substance Abuse (CASA).

With Korty's guidance, CASA deals with Scott County's challenges with great fervor. "The main challenge is reducing the prevalence of substance abuse in Scott County," she said. "It is overwhelming and creating all kinds of additional problems with crime, prostitution, child abuse, domestic violence, etc. I know that we can overcome our challenges if we keep working towards the goal of solving these problems."

Complimenting her service at CASA is her other position as the Family Advocate at the Center for Women and Families (The Center). "CASA recognizes that substance abuse, domestic violence and child abuse are interlinked in their cause and impact on families," she said. "Therefore, working for an agency providing domestic violence intervention services and being a part of CASA and Prevent Child Abuse fits perfectly." Yet, Korty has realized, each entity does not always share the same ideals. "The Center's main focus is intimate personal violence and rape/sexual assault and CASA's is primarily substance abuse," she said. "Sometimes our prevention efforts take very different courses and sometimes we disagree about which comes first--the substance abuse problems or the violence, or vice versa. This can be a challenge, but we seem to always find a compromise and, in the end, a way to help the client best."

Korty's work for The Center this year includes an informational packet designated for educating teachers using three main components of abusive behaviors: how to recognize it, how to prevent it and how you can help. "The main goal here," she explained, "is



educating youth so that the cycle doesn't continue with them." The packet is funded through a Communities Against Rape Community Grant from Purdue University.

Since she was a child, Korty knew social work was going to be in her life's plan. "I've known since middle school that I've wanted to be in social work," she said. "In school I never changed my major."

"I think," said Korty, "what's most rewarding is seeing people make positive changes in their lives."

The IPRC thanks Michelle Korty for all of her hard work and dedication in the field of prevention.

Reading and Drug Free in Hancock County— By Megan Randall

Hancock County—On September 30th, Mt. Vernon Intermediate and J.B. Stephens Elementary School's Kids Possess Positive Power (KPPP) programs participated in *Put Your Nose in a Book, Indiana!* as their community service project.

Put Your Nose in a Book, Indiana! promotes reading through community-wide reading activities and fund-raising efforts. "It's a fun thing," explained Ann Osborne, Executive Director



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READING AND DRUG FREE IN HANCOCK COUNTY (CON'T)

of the Mental Health Association in Hancock County, "but it has an important message. We all need to know that reading is the key to success."

KPPP had 14 students participate in the program. The students read at the JB Stephens Elementary After School Care program and related their drug-free values to the program. "The more information we have, and we receive a lot by reading books, articles or accessing the Internet," explained Osborne, "the better informed choices we can make." The group plans to participate again next year.

Noses were sold for \$1.00 each and will provide funding for programs sponsored by the Hancock County Literacy Coalition.

Some of the funds raised will purchase "Bobby's Books" for the library. "Bobby's Books" is a collection of titles that address difficult issues that may face children such as grief, loss and change.

The Hancock County Public Library will hold a workshop with suggestions on how to utilize the books to facilitate conversation between children and parents or teachers.

First Words will also be funded by this program. The library and Hancock Memorial Hospital and Health Services co-direct this program in which newborns receive their first book on the way out of the hospital.

Businesses and organizations who participated by selling noses were: Hancock County Division of Family and Children; Hancock County Public Library (all locations and Techmobile); M Salon and Nails; Modern Traditions Shop; A Step Ahead; Greenfield Learning Center and at the New Palestine Lions Club Fall Festival.

Put Your Nose in a Book, Indiana! was sponsored by the Hancock County Adult Literacy Coalition, the Friends of the Hancock County Public Library and the Hancock County Public Library.

For more information on this, or other programs promoted through the Hancock County Public Library go to www.hcplibrary.org.

For more information about *Put Your Nose in a Book, Indiana!*, please contact Ann Osborne, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association in Hancock County at 317-462-2877.



KPPP/Afternoons ROCK site supervisor Ms Tina Nehrling (far right, center) with KPPP participants at JB Stephens Elementary School in Greenfield, Indiana.

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