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WHAT DO IOWA COUNTY TEENS THINK ABOUT SEX, SUICIDE, PARENTS, DRUGS...?

Understanding the challenging world of local teens

Parents, grandparents, educators, pastors, teachers, social workers and teens concerned about the challenging world of Iowa County youth are invited to “What’s With the Kids Today?” In this highly interactive community conversation, you’ll find out what local teens actually think about sex, suicide, parents, drugs, Twitter and other hot topics. The event is scheduled for Sunday, October 3, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Iowa County Courthouse County Board Room (2nd Floor) in Dodgeville.

Everyone in the audience will be “wired” just as in an interactive TV show. The audience will “show” electronically what they believe local teens think about various troublesome behaviors - then find out what the kids actually think. Maureen May Grimm, Mineral Point school board member and local teens will be among the panel members. Expect surprises.

The information is based on the UW Extension Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 5,700 area teens in Iowa, Sauk, Grant, Lafayette, Crawford and Richland Counties. In fact, the Extension service conducts such studies every few years but never before have the results been available for a public conversation. UW Extension and Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin are co-sponsors of the Oct. 3 event.

This event will be the first in a series sponsored by Grassroots that will look at the world from today’s teen view. “Books You Never Read, but Your Kids Did” with UW Platteville Librarian Zora Sampson and teens presenting will be Tues., Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Dodgeville Public Library. “The Making (and Unmaking) of a Bully” is scheduled for January, 2011, specific date to be announced. “Teens at Risk: Behavior, Health and Social Media” will be in late January or February, presented by the UW Madison Adolescent Health Research Team. “New Technology, New Literacy, New Learning?” will be in the Spring, 2011, presented by UW Madison professors Erica and Richard Halverson.

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