

LAKEWOOD'S PROMISE NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1
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Lakewood's Promise builds the character and competence of the youth of Lakewood through the Five Promises.

- **Caring Adults**
- **Safe Places**
- **Healthy Start**
- **Effective Education**
- **Opportunities to Give Back**

Lakewood's Promise Executive Board

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Eric Renz, Executive Director
Lakewood's Promise



Keeping Lakewood's Promise

The First Edition of a New Resource

This is the first edition of the Lakewood's Promise Newsletter. The Executive Board of Lakewood's Promise wants the community to know more about the Five Promises and how they are being kept in Lakewood.

Lakewood's Promise has a ten-year history of promoting the collaboration of resources to build the competence and character of Lakewood's young people.

This edition introduces you to Lakewood's Prom-

ise. Future issues will share information about the many agencies and projects serving our young people. We will also explain how individuals, businesses, community agencies, clubs and churches can contribute to the success of Lakewood's youth.

The *LP Newsletter* is an invitation for you to get involved for the sake of Lakewood's young people and our entire community.

For more information and opportunities to become involved, go to www.lakewoodspromise.org.

Lakewood's Promise is changing tomorrow today

The Promise movement started in 1997 after America's Promise was formed. A national conference on youth crime and drug use gathered the six living presidents and youth researchers. Colin Powell, near retirement, and his wife, Alma Powell, became Chairpersons of America's Promise.

Lakewood's Promise was founded immediately, the first city to formally sponsor a Community of Promise.

Lakewood's Promise is led by an Executive Board whose mission is to build partnerships that will provide the youth of Lakewood with opportunities to access the Five Promises. The vision of the

Executive Board is carried out through the Executive Director and several Lakewood's Promise committees and task forces that carry out specific projects and activities under the direction of the Executive Board.

Lakewood's Community Collaboration has over 120 Partner Programs and 275 individuals including businesses, clubs, faith communities, government and community service organizations that support or deliver social and community services. Thousands of people who live and work in Lakewood serve youth through our partners.

The Caring Adult Task Force

gathers mentor programs to enhance promotion and recruiting for the first promise.

The new Healthy Start Task Force will gather children's health and dental leaders to improve access to health care.

The Marketing Committee provides the community with information about Lakewood's Promise and encourages involvement and commitment.

The Finance and Sustainability Committee works with businesses to assure resources are available to sustain the work of Lakewood's Promise.

Before today ends, another 3,000 students will drop out of high school and before the year ends, more than one million will have left school. We don't have a dropout problem; we have a dropout crisis.

- America's Promise

Financial Partners

- City of Lakewood
- Franciscan Health System
- Columbia State Bank
- Harborstone Credit Union
- Mountain View Funeral Home
- Rainier Pacific Bank
- Wal*Mart
- Clover Park Rotary
- Rotary Club of Lakewood
- Lakewood First Lions
- Lakewood Knights Lions Club
- Clover Park Kiwanis Club

and many individuals

Who needs a caring adult ?

Why do some young people absorb knowledge, exhibit gifts and succeed "without trying"? There are a lot of factors, some internal, some environmental, and those factors interact.

Young people are secure and able to do their best when they have an adult in their lives who they know cares about them. Parents are the first-line caring adults, but some parents aren't present or don't deliver. From

age eight on, even with parents, an adult who doesn't "have to love you" makes a big developmental difference.

Teachers, coaches, neighbors, pastors, uncles and aunts, employers, bus drivers, counselors, youth activity leaders are all examples of people in a young person's life who can tell and show a young person that he or she is valuable. These people can encourage effort, project

high expectations, give congratulations, guide problem solving and point the way forward.

It's not about skills, it's about relationships. It's not about genius, it's about caring.

Would you consider being a caring adult in a child's life?

Contact: Eric Renz,
erenz@cityoflakewood.us,
to be involved.

When significant numbers of children receive the Five Promises, AMERICA'S PROMISE has identified Ten Outcomes

- High school completion rates will increase (the most important predictor of success)
- College or post-secondary enrollment will increase
- Early school readiness will increase
- Proficiency in math and English will increase
- Civic engagement by young people will increase
- Incidence of juvenile crime will decrease
- Drug and alcohol abuse will decrease
- Rates of children as crime victims will decrease
- Incidence of childhood suicides will decrease
- Teen pregnancy rates will decrease

What can my business do for kids?

Help to defray the high cost of quality child care and early childhood education through employer-matched flexible spending accounts (allowing employees to set aside pre-tax dollars for child care and early childhood education).

Offer flexible options for addressing dependent care needs and participation in school- and community-related activities.

Coordinate volunteer opportunities

for employees and allow them a specific amount of paid time (e.g., one hour per week) to serve children and families in need.

Invest in youth-led service through partnerships and financial support for global, national, and local organizations that engage young people in quality volunteering and service-learning programs.

Offer flexible options for employees volunteering in schools and

encourage employees to have a role in their neighborhood school.

Support employees and future retirees to bring their skills and experience into the classroom by serving as adjunct teachers and volunteering as mentors and tutors.

If your business is interested in helping kids, contact Eric Renz, erenz@cityoflakewood.us.