



Rx4Life Inspires at National Conference

Chewelah, WA – The local grassroots organization, Prescriptions for Life, packed the hall during their presentation session at the 6th Annual National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference in Spokane, September 23rd.

“It was a great experience to be surrounded by so many people from all over the country, sharing in the common cause of helping children who are in tough situations because of drug abuse,” remarked Rx4Life Board Chairman and presenter Jim Tilla.

The conference, held in a different city around the country each year, provides training and informational sessions for both practitioners and community members on drug endangered children’s issues. Prescriptions for Life (Rx4Life) was asked to co-present with Steve Freng, a Prevention & Treatment Manager with the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

Freng, a sought-after trainer on drug prevention issues, covered the history and current trends of prescription pain medication abuse, which lead into the presentation by Rx4Life to a standing-room-only crowd about how “prescription pain medication abuse takes away everything you love.”

“We were fortunate to follow the Washington State Attorney General’s keynote address in that he did an excellent job of defining the problem and describing what he felt were the keys to turning the tide of prescription pain medication abuse,” noted Rx4Life Director and presenter Gabriel Cruden. “Attorney General Rob McKenna described community collaboration and education as two of the key ingredients and that is exactly what we are about.”

Rx4Life showed conference-goers the group’s recently produced informational video that tells one family’s story of struggling with their daughter’s prescription pain medication abuse, and how it impacted an entire community. The group offered a window into how and why they formed into a nonprofit organization committed to the elimination of pain medication abuse in their community and to providing prescription pain medication monitoring and treatment options.

“When Jim Tilla began presenting to Chewelah-area schools three years ago, very few students knew much about prescription pain medication abuse,” said Renee Jungblom, Rx4Life presenter and Student Assistant Specialist with ESD 101. “Now, when he goes into the schools and asks the kids ‘Who knows about prescription drug abuse?’ ...just about every hand goes up. Education is making a difference and it is saving lives.”

As part of the group’s ongoing educational efforts on this issue, Rx4Life is hosting an Autumn Awareness Dinner for which the Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna will deliver the keynote address. The dinner is set for October 28, from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Chewelah Golf and Country Club. Dinner tickets for the event are available until October 19th. For more information or to reserve a dinner ticket, call 935-4529 or go to www.Rx4lifeChewelah.org.