

New Year Resolution: make connecting in Clarkston a part of your life.

Let's work together reaching out to others, old and young alike, to help continue a safe, enriching and friendly environment in Clarkston. The more we connect, the more we support the idea that Clarkston isn't just one's home, but also one's *hometown*. For more information about the Clarkston Community Initiative, visit www.clarkstonconnects.org or call 248-922-3004. **Who will you connect with today?**

8 Ways to Get Started Building Community! Ideas that connect, build and sustain relationships ...

The Week of January 1, 2006-Support Each Other: *Be a person who cares, listens, appreciates and accepts others.*

- Think of someone you want to connect with to show them you care... then call them!
- Host a multi-generational hot chocolate party and have each guest share a winter memory.
- Have question cards at the dinner table and take turns asking and listening to the answers. For example, "What is your favorite season?" "Where would you like to travel in the next five years?" "Which cartoon character do you identify with the most?"

The Week of January 8, 2006-Value Everyone: *Insure everyone feels safe, valued and involved.*

- Take a moment and ask a co-worker, family member or friend how their day is going.
- Ask a youth to become a member of your organization's board or committee.
- Get to know your neighbors.

The Week of January 15, 2006-Encourage Others: *Encourage others to be and do their best.*

- Attend a Clarkston sports event and cheer for our hometown team!
- Host a game night at your home for a mixed age group and encourage everyone to have fun.
- Say at least one encouraging statement to a friend or family member each day this week.

The Week of January 22, 2006-Develop New Skills: *Create opportunities to develop new skills & interests between youth and adults.*

- Plan a talent night at your school, neighborhood, business, church or family where youth &/or adults share their special expertise.
- Volunteer to coach a sport team, direct a play, manage a Destination Imagination group, mentor/tutor a child, teach a religious class or head up an Alpha optimist club.

The Week of January 29, 2006-Invest in Lifelong Learning: *Develop and value the importance of lifelong learning.*

- Make a definite plan today to sign up for a community education class. Check out clarkstoncalendar.org to see what is going on!
- Explore the outdoors & plan a visit to the Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park.
- Visit the Clarkston Heritage Museum, housed at Independence Twp. Library & learn about Clarkston's rich history.

The Week of February 5, 2006-Model Positive Choices: *Establish strong guiding principals to make positive choices & follow rules that respect the rights of everyone in our community.*

- Visit clarkstonyouth.org for tips on why positive modeling is so important.
- Support Clarkston's local SADD chapter (Students Against Destructive Decisions). Visit SADD.org.

The Week of February 12, 2006-Build Social Skills: *Develop skills to interact effectively with others and make appropriate decisions. Learn to adapt to new situations.*

- Attend the next Father/Daughter or Mother/Son event sponsored by Community Education. Visit clarkstoncalendar.org for dates.
- Agree to chaperone your child's middle school or high school dance. Get to know their friends and their friend's parents.
- Practice peaceful conflict resolution using the Stop, Say, Listen, Think model. Visit www.goodcharacter.com.

The Week of February 19, 2006-Believe in Yourself: *Believe in your own self-worth and ability to make good things happen.*

- Plan an Empowerment Day! For example, have your children plan & cook dinner for the family.
- List your talents & post in prominent location. Work on growing from strengths, not fixing" weaknesses.