

Southwestern



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For Immediate Release

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week

(Evansville, IN – March 1, 2013) March 3-9, 2013 is National Problem Gambling Awareness Week and we are pleased to announce local initiatives in support of the effort to increase public awareness of the availability and benefits of problem gambling treatment. This effort will help educate public healthcare providers about problem gambling warning signs and where to call for help.

During the week of March 3-9, communities nationwide are working to raise awareness of the consequences of problem gambling and the resources available for individuals whose gambling is causing disruption in their lives. Treatment for problem gambling is not only available, but is also effective in improving the lives of problem gamblers and their families. This initiative is also a celebration of the men and women who are overcoming problems associated with their gambling behavior.

“At Southwestern's Stepping Stone location we provide the full continuum of care for all addictions, including problem gambling. We offer specialized individual, group, and family therapy for problem gamblers and their loved ones. We have three therapists that are certified gambling counselors with specialized training in the unique issues problem gamblers and their families face. We also host an open Gambling Anonymous meeting on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. at our facility to support recovering gamblers,” said Katy Adams, Director of Addiction Services for Southwestern.

A community presentation will take place on Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 p.m. at Stepping Stone which is located at 4001 John Street in Evansville. This presentation, “When All Bets are Off,” will feature Janine Purvis, a local expert on problem gambling issues and treatment. Success stories of individuals overcoming problem gambling will be shared through a gamblers anonymous panel where there will also be time for questions and answers. In addition, 1.0 in Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as well as a light dinner will be offered for free. Please RSVP by March 4th at 812.473.3144.

The efforts of this week are geared toward creating a society where those affected by problem gambling are able to identify the problem and access professional services that help minimize the consequences of problem gambling. It envisions an environment in which treatment of gambling problems is recognized as a specialized field of expertise and professionals trained to assist problem gamblers are recognized for their unique knowledge, skills and abilities.

(More)

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week CONTINUED

A primary focus of this effort is to promote the fact that treatment works and is available in Indiana.

“In order to make a positive impact in the community, we need to be sure that the individuals and families that are in need of our services are aware of the services available at Stepping Stone for problem gambling,” said Adams.

Indiana’s problem gambling help line number is 1.800.994.8448. The helpline can assist a problem gambler or their families locate low cost treatment across Indiana. Individuals can also call Stepping Stone at 812.473.3144 for more information on treatment options available or to schedule an assessment.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Katy Adams at 812.473.3144 or adamsk@southwestern.org.

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