

Ideas for Promoting Developmental Disability Awareness:

In honor of Developmental Disability Month, REM Ohio would like everyone to join us in promoting awareness and acceptance within our communities. The following ideas should help you in planning your awareness activities.

1. Hold a local pledge event at school or in your community. Set up a laptop to encourage people to sign the www.r-word.org pledge page on the spot and/or create a banner for people to sign on the spot. Invite local Special Olympics athlete Global Messengers or Best Buddies Buddy Ambassadors to speak at an assembly.
2. Create a video speaking out against the use of the R-word to post on YouTube. Share the link with your friends and family.
3. Set up a booth at events or conferences.
4. Contact your local Special Olympics or Best Buddies office to learn how to get involved in events in your community.
5. Post a comment to an online social message board sharing your thoughts about the R-word and its abuse in our society.
6. Work with local sports teams to participate in a halftime event to promote awareness.
7. Update your Facebook status with inspiring quotes by and about people with disabilities.
8. Attend the Developmental Disability Awareness Month Kickoff Event at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus on March 3, 2011, from 10 a.m. – noon.
9. Write a letter to the editor in your local newspaper regarding awareness in your community.
10. The symbol for DD Awareness is a silver ribbon. Please show your support for individuals who have a developmental disability by wearing a silver ribbon during the month of March.
11. Contact producers of local public affairs radio and television programs, inviting them to devote a program to advocacy and supports for people with developmental disabilities.
12. Work with your local clergy to include people with developmental disabilities in religious services on Sabbath/Sunday weekend.