

FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL
COUNSELING/CRISIS INTERVENTION
INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

For counseling, crisis intervention, support services or other assistance with personal, school, court, divorce, loss, peer relations, and/or other issues facing you, your family, your son or daughter - call for a referral and get the help you need. Referrals for these services may come from schools, courts, churches, families, other agencies, the individual themselves or other sources. The Town has contracted professional mental health services who will work with you within your insurance guidelines or will assist you with qualifications for Medicaid, the State's Children's Health Plan or other programs that may be available to you. If no resources are available the Town's contract can help.
For information and/or referral contact Gwen Kermode at 647-6519.

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD and

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Youth Advisory Board is available for High School Students regardless of where they attend school. Students are appointed by the Board of Selectmen to advise the Board of Selectmen. The Youth Advisory Board was established to listen to youth issues or those that affects their future, and to become active participants in the community in addressing these issues. The Advisory Committee is open to 7th graders through adults. Participants plan and implement their own community service projects and assist in the planning of and receiving leadership training. The YAB is seeking volunteers to help with children's activities at Natick Days on Sept. 14th, at the Halloween Party for Big Brothers/Big Sisters on October 26th and with planning and implementing action plans as a result of the findings from the Youth Summit in held in April of 2002. **We need other adult volunteers and businesses in Natick** to get involved. With your help the youth of our community can become a strong, positive, active partner in the planning and problem solving in Natick for the present and for the future. Those who would like to join the **YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD OR ADVISORY COMMITTEE** or if you would like to assist in any way, please call Gwen Kermode, 647-6519. The Youth Advisory Board meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:45 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room at the Natick

UP COMING EVENTS

NATICK DAYS – September 14TH 10 a.m. – 4p.m. **Downtown** Youth Advisory Board sponsoring Tommy the Tortoise moon walk for preschoolers, Pam Murphy's pony drawn carriage rides and with the Commission on Disability pictures with the Honey Bear. The Commission on Disability is sponsoring pictures with or without a costume and picture frame refrigerator magnets, along with coffee, donuts and snacks. Come enjoy the fun!!!!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY RESOURCE, VENDOR AND AWARENESS FAIR – October 24th 4-8 p.m.
Morse Institute Library – Vendor/resource booths, give-a-ways, entertainment, refreshments, awards, balloons and more.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT The Town of Natick with the Natick Community Coalition is working on an action plan to address the key findings from the health and related services assessment. The purpose of the assessment was to identify and analyze the health and human service needs of residents in Natick; residents knowledge of and access to existing services; identify gaps in services to address identified needs and, to make recommendations to the Town, Schools and Coalition members regarding services that should be provided and possible funding sources. This assessment is complete and both providers and residents have joined together to work on a plan to address the findings. The Coalition has broken into three committees one on children and youth issues, one on elder issues, and one on adults 19-59 issues. The charge for each group is to prioritize findings, pool resources and develop a strategic plan that can

be implemented in the next year as well as longer range plans. We need your involvement. The more heads together the better. Please call today for the next meeting time for the group you are interested in working with.

FOR INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED

Many of the projects, groups, partnerships, etc. listed below are seeking residents to get involved. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Gwen Kermode, 647-6519 and she will put you in touch with the correct party.

Natick Alcohol and Drug Advisory Council (NADAC)

This is a group of school and town professionals and residents working to provide education and awareness for the prevention of drug and alcohol use by all populations. The two primary event NADAC hosts are a Dinner for Senior Citizens in the Spring and the All Night Party After the Prom for High School students. The group meets once a month and is open to all interested persons.

Natick Commission on Disability

The Natick Commission on Disability [NCOD] is appointed by the Board of Selectmen and meets monthly. The Director of Human Services is the Town official appointed to the Commission and also serves as the ADA Coordinator for the Town. The NCOD provides information, referrals, guidance, coordination, and technical assistance to individuals, public agencies, businesses, and organizations in all matters pertaining to issues facing individuals with disabilities. All meetings are public meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Community Meeting Room at the Police Station and the public is invited to attend.

Natick Community Coalition, Inc.

The Natick Community Coalition is a community based initiative involving residents, community members of all cultures, organizations, faith based organizations, institutions, businesses and government agencies committed to improving the social, physical, mental, economic, environmental and spiritual life of the Natick Community. In an effort to build a healthy community our goals include: Identify And Assess Community Needs And Concerns; Facilitate And Coordinate Community Based Efforts And Resources To Address The Needs Of The Community; And, Share Information And Resources. Membership in the Coalition is open to everyone in the community interested in furthering and supporting its purpose. The Coalition meets in the Community Meeting Room at Morse Institute Library on the fourth Thursday of each month at 3:00 pm.

Natick Joining Hands For Peace

Joining Hands for Peace is a community collaboration established to address the issue of violence in our society. The mission of the coalition is to align many existing efforts and organizations into a united front committed to preventing violence in our schools and community. Joining Hands for Peace is designed to be proactive, taking positive steps toward educating the community and promoting programs and new ideas that encourage and support respect and dignity for all people. The program is also aimed at helping children of all ages develop their decision-making abilities based on rational, informed choices.

Neighborhood Watch Program

The Natick Police Department is working on the formation of Neighborhood Watch groups. Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that teaches citizens techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home and in public. It trains citizens on the importance of recognizing suspicious activities and how to report them. It also teaches participants how to make their homes more secure and properly identify their property, while allowing neighbors to get to know each other and their routines so that any out of place activity can be reported and investigated. It is a cohesive body of concerned citizens addressing issues that concern the entire community.

Volunteer Opportunities Listing: If you can volunteer any time at all, please call Gwen Kermode 647-6519, Diana Ryder 647-6540 or Debbie Vogt 655-1791 for a complete list of organization that need you.

Note: Reasonable accommodations and audio-visual aids and services will be available upon request for all materials and/or events.