



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Frederick County Health Department**

Barbara A. Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H. ▪ Health Officer

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Kids Like Us is a school based, professionally led, small group counseling program for students in grades 4 and above with concerns about the drug or alcohol misuse of someone close to them. For 30 years, the Frederick County Health Department Behavioral Health Services Division has provided the Kids Like Us Program in close collaboration with the Frederick County Public School Counselors. Beginning in 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in an initial 12-week session weekly group at their elementary school. A professional art therapist or counselor, known as a Kids Like Us Counselor facilitates the sessions. The school counselor is present and active in the sessions as well. Semi-monthly meetings continue through the 8<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Group members are also invited and encouraged to attend a free day camp held during the summer and to participate in an annual community art show of artwork created at the day camp.

**Participation in Kids Like Us is confidential** and we do NOT need to know who has is challenged by an alcohol or drug misuse disorder for a child to participate. Only the Kids Like Us staff and the school counselor will know that your child is in the group. Other **students and staff at the school are not told who is in the group**. We work with classroom teachers to time group meetings so they do not interfere with academic success.

Participation requires parent/guardian permission. If you would like your child to join, complete the permission slip at the bottom of this letter and return it directly to me as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information at 301-600-3281 or [jmerchant@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:jmerchant@frederickcountymd.gov)

Sincerely,  
Julie Wood Merchant, LCPAT, ATR-BC  
Kids Like Us Program Director

----- Detach here -----

**Kids Like Us Permission Form**

I give permission for the student named below to participate in the Kids Like Us Program this school year at his/her school and for the KLU Counselor to contact me by phone, text, or email, if necessary.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of Parent/Guardian's \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Child \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number/s \_\_\_\_\_ Is it okay to leave a message?  Yes  No  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Send completed form by fax or mail to Julie Wood Merchant, Kids Like Us Program Director.**  
**FAX to 301-600-3298 MAIL to Frederick County Health Dept., 350 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702**

Andrea L. Walker, MA, CPRP ▪ Director, Frederick County Behavioral Health Services  
**Prevention, Adolescent Services, Mental Health Services** ▪ 350 Montevue Lane ▪ Frederick, MD 21702  
Phone: 301-600-3293(SA) or 301-600-1755 (MH) ▪ Fax: 301-600-3298(SA) or 301-600-3214(MH)  
MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258

**Adult Outpatient Substance Abuse Services** ▪ 300-B Scholl's Lane ▪ Frederick, MD 21701  
Phone: 301-600-1775 ▪ Fax: 301-600-1781 ▪ MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258

**Detention Center Treatment Programs** ▪ 7300 Marcie's Choice Lane ▪ Frederick, MD 21703  
Phone: 301-600-3145 ▪ Fax: 301-600-3144 ▪ MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258

