



# Program Information For Parents and Guardians

The **Kids Like Us Program** started in Frederick County schools in 1989 and has since served thousands of youth. Evaluation Focus Groups conducted by an external evaluator in spring 2008 revealed that students perceive the program as having a significant impact on their emotional wellbeing, their sense of connection to others, and their ability to be successful academically. This program has provided support to students and their families.

## What Kids Say about Kids Like Us

- “Group was motivating and fun”
- “Learned to talk about feelings and listen to others”
- “Learned how to avoid and solve problems”
- “Learned that substance abuse is not our fault”
- “Learned about the disease of chemical dependency”

## What Parents Say about Kids Like Us

- “Wonderful program”
- “My child had many happy feelings from group”
- “Thank you for being part of my child’s life– she thoroughly enjoyed the group!”
- “Thank you for starting and maintaining the group. I appreciate it”

**Students report that Kids Like Us ...”provides an experience where students reduce worry, sadness, and anger so that they have a better day, academically and socially.”**

*- Kids Like Us  
Program Evaluator*

## Recognition

Kids Like Us has served as a model for other counties and has been the recipient of several awards, including:

- **2019. Maryland Innovations Now Award.** Addiction Policy Forum.
- **2017. National Exemplary Award for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Practices, and Policies.** National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Inc.
- **2009. Art Health Solutions.** Society for the Arts in Healthcare.
- **2007 Service to Science Academy.** Northeast Center for Applied Prevention Technologies (NECAPT) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMSHA)
- **2006 ARTvantage.** Maryland State Arts Council
- **2004. 2007. Sharon I Hooper Fund for Children.** Community Foundation of Frederick
- **1991 Program Recognition Award.** Washington Council of Governments
- **1990 Outstanding Program Award.** Department of Mental Health and Hygiene
- **1989 Program Award for Excellence.** Maryland State School Health Council Award

## For more information about the important role of parents in prevention:

Navigating the Teen Years at [http://www.theantidrug.com/pdfs/nav\\_the\\_teen\\_years.pdf](http://www.theantidrug.com/pdfs/nav_the_teen_years.pdf)

Time to Talk at <http://www.timetotalk.org/Default.aspx>

**For more information about Kids Like Us** Julie Wood Merchant, LCPAT, ATR-BC, Program Director, Frederick County Health Department, 350 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702, 301-600-3281, [JMerchant@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:JMerchant@FrederickCountyMD.gov)