Issue #47
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2025

FREE

By Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey Counties

Message from Director

Reflecting on a summer that brought many of us precious time for vacation, adventures with family, warm summer days of BBQing and relaxation, this summer we also felt the heavy loss of three young men, community members. Our hearts are broken, and we grapple with the why.

Coming together; to witness the response from community through shared space was a reminder that celebration and remembrance can coexist. In gathering together, we give ourselves permission to grieve, to rejoice, and to heal, all in the same breath. This is the beauty of community: the strength found in shared experiences, and the comfort born of connection.

Let us keep showing up for one another. In small gestures of kindness, in words of encouragement, and in the simple act of being present, we remind each other that no one walks this path alone.

With love, gratitude, and hope, Wendy Madson, Director, HCC.



There is no footprint too small to leave an imprint on this world.
In our sorrow, we remember.
In our gathering, we heal



Volunteer Spotlight



Maxine Koehler

Maxine Koehler has been volunteering with the Silver Stage Food Pantry for a year. Maxine says she loves being at the Pantry because it is her sanctuary, and she loves helping her community.

Thank you, Maxine, for making a positive difference!

Partner Spotlight

DAYTON VALLEY GOLF CLUB



Fundraiser at Golf Course Nets \$6,500 for HCC Programs

The Dayton Valley Golf Club held a very special fundraiser this summer in memory of Julie Kepler, a beloved member of the community. Among the many good things she will be remembered for, Julie continually supported Healthy Communities Coalition's Dayton Food Pantry and Community Roots nursery. With this in mind, Julie's husband, Jim Kepler, donated all proceeds from the fundraiser (\$6,500) to HCC to support community-based programming.

"The generosity shown by everyone involved was incredible," said HCC director Wendy Madson. "This donation will help fund vital needs such as emergency food, making a tangible difference in the lives of people in our community."

The Dayton Valley Golf Club has also been a longstanding supporter of HCC food pantries through an annual "Drive Out Hunger Golf Tournament", contributing support as host, sponsor and donor.

The Dayton Valley Golf Club, located at 101 Palmer Drive in Dayton, Nevada, "is recognized as one of the premier courses in Northern Nevada. Incorporating forty acres of water features, the pristine course is an oasis in the desert."

For more about the course and country club, call (775) 246-7888 or see their website at https://www.daytonvalleygolf.com.



Those who missed the fundraising event but wish to contribute can make a donation online at https://www.healthycomm.org/donate. Donations can also be mailed to Healthy Communities at 209 Dayton Valley Road, Dayton, NV 89403.



Students attending VBS at Calvary Baptist Church collected donations and then gave a generous check to the Dayton Food Pantry.

It's wonderful to see youth leading such a meaningful act of community support. Your efforts are deeply appreciated, and you are making a real difference in the lives of many individuals and families facing hunger.

Thank you for your support

Community Comes Together for Back-to-School Event in Silver Springs

Freshy's Wings n Things brought a Back-to-School Ice Cream Social to the **Silver Stage Food Pantry** in August. The event was a big hit with the community!

Freshy's brought donated school supplies, and served up ice cream for all. In addition, the *Lyon County Sheriff* came and handed out donated school backpacks.

Missionaries with the *The Church* of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints helped Pantry volunteers and staff set up, arranged free clothing the community had donated to the Pantry, and also helped clean up afterwards. SSFP manager Lacey Baratti-Butler said, "They were a wonderful help! We all feel like it was a great turn out!" Thank you to everyone who participated and helped Silver Springs

students get off to a great start to their school year with family fun, clothing and school supplies.



The Grocery Outlet, Pharoahs Car Club and the community gave support for the food pantries during an August car show and food and backpack drive at the Grocery Outlet in Dayton. The pantries received \$243 in cash donations and 780 pounds of food! We thank everyone involved for their part in fighting hunger.

Page 4 | The Dandelion – September / October 2025

Prevention Begins with Us: Building a Safer, Healthier Community

At the heart of every strong community is prevention. Whether we're talking about preventing substance abuse, violence, chronic disease, or homelessness, early action saves lives, protects families, and creates opportunities for a better future. But prevention isn't just the work of professionals. It starts with everyday people, parents, teachers, neighbors, and friends who look out for each other. It's the conversations we have, the support we offer, and the resources we share that create a culture of care. Our nonprofit is committed to empowering individuals and families with tools to make informed, healthy choices. From educational workshops and school partnerships to outreach events and support services, we are working every day to reduce risks and build resilience.

Prevention is powerful and it begins with each of us.

Let's work together to make our community stronger, safer, & more connected.

What You Can Do Today

Prevention might sound like a big concept, but it's built on simple, everyday actions. Here are five ways you can help prevent harm and promote wellness in our community today:

- Start a conversation: Whether it's about substance use, mental health, or safety, open dialogue can make a big difference.
- Get trained: We offer free workshops on topics like overdose response, trauma-informed care, and youth mentoring.
- Be a role model: Children and teens watch what we do. Show healthy habits and positive coping strategies.

- Share resources: Know someone who's struggling? Let them know they're not alone. We have support services available.
- Support local prevention efforts
- Volunteer, donate, or help spread awareness of the work being done. Change doesn't always come in big moments. Often, it's the small, consistent acts that create lasting impact. Thank you for being part of a community that chooses prevention.



Healthy Communities staff can come to your event to share health, wellness, prevention and local resources information.

Contact us at info@healthycomm.org or call 775-246-7550 if you would like for us to come to your event.



Everyone is Welcome at HCC's Breakfast Meeting

Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey Counties meets every other month on the second Thursday from 9am-11am at the Silver Springs Community Center 2945 Fort Churchill Street, Silver Springs NV 89429. Breakfast and coffee are part of the public meetings.





MAP

Guest Speakers Thursday, Oct 9, 2025

Guest speakers are from managed care organizations Caresource and Silver Summit Health Plan, and EMPOWERED, a wrap-around care program for pregnant and postpartum women suffering from substance use.

Healthy Communities is comprised of dozens of local, state, federal and tribal group partners, community volunteers, and staff members all working together on a common mission to strengthen communities in the Lyon and Storey regions by increasing access to 1) health care and prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; 2) nutritious food; and 3) sustainable community-based opportunities that serve the common good and strengthen local assets and self-reliance.

Navigating the Back-to-School Transition with Ease

By: Connie Ruano, Parent Advocate

As the new school year begins, balancing work, family, and school responsibilities can feel overwhelming for parents, caregivers, and guardians. Fortunately, there are practical strategies that can help ease this transition and support your mental well-being.

As a Peer Recovery Support Specialist, I have discovered valuable resources from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that offer simple, effective ways to prioritize mental health during this busy time. These tools not only help you manage stress but also teach your child healthy coping skills.

For families dealing with mental health conditions, transitions like the start of a new school year can be especially challenging. In addition to adjusting routines, there's the added responsibility of maintaining mental wellness—for yourself and your child.

The good news? Planning ahead can make a big difference. With thoughtful preparation and the right support, you can create a smoother transition and help your family stay healthy and resilient.

For more information, please visit: BTS-Working-Caregivers.pdf



Working Caregivers

During the Back to School Transition

As the new school year approaches, managing the demands of work and family life can become overwhelming for parents, caregivers, and guardians. This guide offers practical strategies to help you prioritize your mental wellbeing during this transition period. Utilizing these techniques will help teach your child stress management, too.

If you or your child are managing a mental health condition, transitions can be especially challenging as you work to maintain you or your child's mental health in addition to making the necessary changes during the transition time. Planning ahead can help the transition go much smoother and ensure everyone can stay healthy!

Tips for Managing Stress:

1. Establish Routine:

- a. Create a family calendar together. Block off time for school drop-offs, extracurriculars, and family events.
- b. Look for an app that can help you prioritize tasks and track chores.
- c. Establish time to reconnect with family and friends throughout the day. This can look like reading to your children at night before bed or texting a friend about your day during lunch.
- If you or your child are managing a mental health condition, maintaining your routine is especially important. Continue following your treatment plan and see your provider regularly.

2. Practice Self-Care:

- Include plans for self-care in your daily schedule to recharge and stay resilient. This can look like exercise, meditation, or hobbies, but take the little opportunities for yourself, too.
 - i. Listen to a podcast or your favorite music.
 - ii. Reclaim time that's just for you, whether that's in the car or in the shower.
 - iii. Try going for a daily walk, or simply giving yourself peaceful moments like sitting quietly with an afternoon cup of tea or taking deep breaths in your car before entering your home.

3. Set Realistic Expectations:

- Notice what control you do have and where you
 might be able to ask for help. Setting realistic
 expectations can help you notice what you can do,
 rather than all the things that feel impossible.
 - Write down three sensible goals you want to achieve during the transition for both work and home, allowing room for adjustments.

Find Your Network of Helpers

1. At Work:

- a. Let your employer know about your family responsibilities and any adjustments needed during the transition.
 - ii. Discuss sharing workloads with colleagues to help each other out.
 - iii. Chat with managers about the upcoming temporary transition time and be clear about expectations.

2. At Home:

- a. Set aside time each week to discuss schedules, responsibilities, and concerns, ensuring everyone feels heard and supported.
 - i. Let each family member know the importance of their role in the transition, how they can be helpful, and set clear expectations.

3. At School:

- Have a conversation with your child's teacher to establish expectations and develop the parent/ teacher partnership.
 - Keep an eye out for "Meet the Teacher" nights before school starts or shortly into the new school year.
 - ii. If you don't have time to meet with your child's teacher, sending an introductory email can also help build a connection.
- Consider discussing Individual Education Programs (IEP) with the school if your child needs additional support in the classroom.
 - i. Find more information on NAMI's website.

4. In Your Community:

- a. Connect with other parents or support groups to share experiences and gain valuable insights.
 - Join a carpool with trusted parents and caregivers.
 - ii. Introduce yourself to other parents at parent/ teacher conferences.
 - iii. Join online groups for local parents or follow parenting accounts on your chosen social media



A Guide for

Working Caregivers

During the Back to School Transition

Making More Time:

1. Explore Flexible Work Arrangements:

- a. Explore flexible work options like remote work or adjusted hours to accommodate school schedules.
 - If your workplace can't be flexible, check in with your child's school to see if there's beforeor after-care programs.
 - ii. Carpool with other trusted parents and caregivers.

2. Delegate Responsibilities:

- a. Choose a household task to share with a family member or older children to lighten the load and foster a sense of teamwork.
 - i. Look into scheduling apps or get a whiteboard.
 - ii. Figure out a reward system to encourage kids' participation (activity-based, monetary, privileges, etc.).

3. Time Management Techniques:

- Time-saving techniques can have a big impact on your schedule
 - i. Try meal prepping to make the week smooth. ii. Explore habit-stacking to work more efficiently.
 - iii. Lay out clothes for the next day before going to bed each night.

Coping with Change:

1. Embrace Adaptability:

- a. Recognize transitions can be challenging and provide growth and development opportunities. Give yourself grace to feel your feelings.
 - Guilt, frustration, irritation, sadness, and more are all common emotions to have during transition.

2. Find the Positive:

- Make a list of the benefits of the back to school season.
 - Benefits for your children can include their learning experiences and achievements, more socializing with friends and less screen time.
 - ii. Benefits for you can include a more regular schedule or less money spent on childcare.

3. Seek Professional Help:

- If stress becomes overwhelming, consider seeking guidance from a mental health professional for additional support.
- b. If you or your child are managing a mental health condition, you may find it helpful to increase the regularity of seeing providers or working closely with providers to plan for this transition.
- c. Access NAMI resources to learn more about finding a therapist:
 - i. Mental Health Treatment Options*
 - ii. Identity & Cultural Dimensions when Seeking Care**
 - iii. Finding Care for Your Child***

Remember, it's okay if you feel mixed emotions around your child's changing schedule. While this may feel like a big change for your child, it's also a big change for you. By implementing these strategies and prioritizing self-care, you can navigate this period with confidence and resilience.

Additional Resources:

- Local parenting support groups
- Employee assistance programs (EAP)
- Reach out to your employer to learn more about this resource.
- NAMI's Helpline
- YYA resources for parents





"https://helplinefaqs.nami.org/category/62-mental-health-treatment
"https://helplinefaqs.nami.org/category/293-identity-cultural-dimensions
""https://helplinefaqs.nami.org/category/5-basic



SEPTEMBER NATIONAL AWARENESS MONTH



September is Suicide Prevention Month:

Let's Start the Conversation

By Connie Ruano, Parent Advocate

September marks Suicide Prevention Month—a time to raise awareness, share hope, and inspire meaningful action around one of the most pressing mental health challenges of our time.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), suicidal thoughts—like mental health conditions—can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, or background. While these thoughts may be common, they should never be considered normal. More often than not, they reflect deep emotional pain or an underlying mental health concern that deserves compassion, understanding, and professional support.

Unfortunately, suicide is still too often met with silence, stigma, or shame. But silence should never be the response to someone's pain. Our goal must be to ensure that individuals, families, and communities have access to the tools, resources, and support they need to talk openly about suicide, recognize warning signs, and seek help without fear or judgment.

#SuicidePreventionMonth reminds us that talking about suicide isn't dangerous—silence is. One honest conversation can be a turning point in someone's life.

Let's get the conversations going.

September is National Recovery Month The Journey of Recovery: Rebuilding, Rediscovering, and Moving Forward

Recovery is not a straight line. It's a journey filled with setbacks, breakthroughs, pauses, and progress. Whether it's from a physical injury, addiction, trauma, mental illness, or emotional loss, recovery is deeply personal, but universally human. Everyone faces challenges that knock them down; recovery is about learning how to stand back up, again and again.

Page 10 | The Dandelion – September / October 2025

What is Recovery?

At its core, recovery is the process of returning to a state of wellbeing after experiencing hardship. It's not just about "going back" to how things were, but often about growing into something stronger, wiser, and more self-aware.

Recovery can include:

- Physical healing after illness, surgery, or injury
- Mental health stabilization after anxiety, depression, or psychological disorders
- Addiction recovery, involving sobriety and managing relapse triggers
- Emotional recovery after heartbreak, grief, or trauma

Each form of recovery carries its own timeline, tools, and needs, however they all share one thing: **resilience**.

What Helps in Recovery?

- Consistency: Small steps taken daily are more powerful than big leaps taken occasionally.
- Support Systems: Surrounding yourself with people who understand or support your journey.
- Self-Compassion: Mistakes and relapses aren't failures—they're part of the process.
- Professional Guidance: Therapists, doctors, and recovery coaches can provide tools and perspectives that aren't always accessible alone.
- Healthy Routine: Sleep, nutrition, movement, and mindfulness practices all support healing.
- Purpose: Finding meaning in the journey—whether through creativity, spirituality, or helping others—can transform suffering into strength.



SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS FOR YOUTH



SEÑALES DE ALERTA DE SUICIDIO EN JÓVENES



It's time to take action if you notice these signs in family or friends:

- 1. Talking about or making plans for suicide.
- 2. Expressing hopelessness about the future.
- Displaying severe/overwhelming emotional pain or distress
- Showing worrisome changes in behavior, particularly in combination with the warning signs above, including significant:
 - · Withdrawal from or changing social connections/situations.
 - · Changes in sleep (increased or decreased).
 - · Anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context
 - · Recent increased agitation or irritability.



Es el momento de actuar si ves alguna de estas señales en tus familiares o amigos:

- Hablar o tener planes de suicidarse.
- 2. Hablar de no tener esperanza en el futuro.
- 3. Mostrar angustia o dolor emocional intenso o insoportable.
- Mostrar cambios de comportamiento que te preocupan, especialmente en combinación con las señales de alerta
 - mencionadas anteriormente. Estos incluyen:

 Aislamiento o cambio en las situaciones sociales.
 - Cambio en los hábitos de sueño (muy poco o demasiado).
 - Ira u hostilidad que parece fuera de lugar o fuera
- de contexto.

 Aumento reciente de inquietud o irritabilidad.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.

Text or call 988 or chat 988lifeline.org, or reach out to a mental health professional.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS Si tú o alguien que conoces está pasando por una situación difícil o por una crisis, hay ayuda disponible. Llama, chatea o textea "AYUDA" al 988 o comunicate con un profesional de la salud mental.







Do you know someone in crisis?

You can be a lifeline & help support them!

Here are five steps you can take that are known to help:

1. ASK:

Are you thinking about suicide? How do you hurt? How can I help?

2. BE THERE:

In person or on the phone. Show support. Listen. Keep promises to connect.

3. HELP KEEP THEM SAFE:

If the person in crisis is suicidal, details matter: Do they have a plan, or ideas about timing or method? You can call 988 to support their crisis care.

4. HELP THEM CONNECT:

When someone is in crisis, connecting them with ongoing supports can help establish a safety net. Remind them they can call, text or chat 988 to connect with a trained crisis counselor 24/7.

5. FOLLOW UP:

After the immediate crisis is over, check in. That text or call afterwards makes a real difference.



Page 12 | The Dandelion – September / October 2025





Quitting tobacco is one of the most powerful decisions a person can make for their health, well-being, and future. Whether you've smoked for a few years or several decades, the choice to stop is not easy, but it is absolutely worth it. Recovery from tobacco addiction is a journey of resilience, transformation, and reclaiming control over your life.

Understanding Tobacco Addiction

Nicotine, the addictive substance in tobacco, is one of the most powerful and fast-acting drugs known. It affects the brain within seconds, creating a cycle of dependency that's both physical and psychological.

Many smokers or tobacco users:

- Use it as a coping mechanism for stress, boredom, or emotional pain
- Associate tobacco with daily routines, social settings, or identity
- Struggle with withdrawal symptoms like irritability, cravings, and anxiety when trying to quit

That's why quitting isn't just about willpower, it's about retraining the brain, building new habits, and finding healthier ways to cope.

Recipe of the Month ____

Berry Bread Pudding



INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 cups berries, unsweetened frozen blueberries, sliced strawberries, or raspberries, (thawed)

5 slices whole wheat bread (crusts removed)

sugar (1/2 teaspoon, optional) vanilla yogurt, low-fat (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- 1 Wash hands with soap and water.
- 2 Combine the thawed berries and sugar (if you choose to use the sugar).
- 3 Layer a spoonful of berries on the bottom of a small 2 cup deep dish. Cover the berries and the bottom of the dish with a layer of bread. Continue layering berries and bread until the dish is full, finishing with a layer of bread.
- 4 Cover the dish with plastic wrap and place a plate or bowl over the top of the berry dish that fits just inside of it. 5 Place a heavy object on top to press down on the fruit and bread layers.
- 5 Refrigerate overnight. Check the dish to be sure juice does not run over the top. You may need to replace the heavy object with a lighter one to prevent spills.
- 6 Serve with a dollop of vanilla yogurt or a sprinkle of powdered sugar.



Food Assistance (SNAP):

A federally funded program to help low-income families buy nutritious food from authorized retailers, also known as "Food Stamps" or "Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program".



Apply for SNAP is online through Access Nevada

"This organization is an equal opportunity provider and employer; material funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)."



NAMI HelpLine

The NAMI HelpLine provides the one-on-one help and information necessary to tackle tough challenges that you, your family or friends are facing.

Call the NAMI WN CARES Warmline at 775-241-4212 to get support In a crisis, call or text 988 (24/7)

Making heart-healthy lifestyle changes can significantly reduce your risk of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular problems. Whether you're looking to prevent heart issues or manage existing conditions, the changes below are scientifically backed and practical.



Need more food for thought? Go to heart.org/eatsmart.

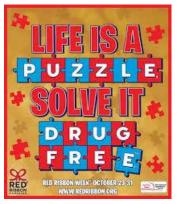
© Copyright 2025 American Heart Association, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit. All rights reserved. Unauthorized use prohibited. WF-915415 5/2

Start With These 3 Small Steps:

- Swap out processed snacks for a handful of unsalted nuts or fruit.
- Go for a 20-minute walk after dinner 3x this week.
- Check your sodium intake using food labels.

RED RIBBON WEEK

October 23 - 31



Enrique "Kiki" Camarena was a Drug Enforcement Administration Agent who was tortured and killed in Mexico in 1985. In honor of Kiki's memory and his battle against illegal drugs, friends and neighbors began to wear red badges of satin. Parents then began to form coalitions using Camarena as their model while embracing his belief that one person can make a difference. These coalitions adopted the symbol of Camarena's memory, the Red Ribbon. Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

Red Ribbon Word Search

See how many words you can find from the list below

YSMCMITHEMEYECR FNXFDNSUEZUYNHI SRHBIKSDXRXACEB IMUBNKXCRB IONALO IRWDHDNAT FEBROSHEALTHYTN EDEUTIYXGPDFT CDBGOQOBICFGAWL RARFCNUEVARLWEG ENAROPTHUMIWY VZVENFHATPMNSKF TCEETMOPGAHFXPL H B X H E M Z P D I C U W J R QCPRSTIYTGGLSRL OOWDTCQPGNTTNHO

Photo contest National Camp Healthy Be drug free Youth Be happy Ribbon Week

Campaign Be brave
Youth Theme
Week Kids

Red

Food Pantries

DAYTON

209 Dayton Valley Rd. 775-246-7834

Tuesday 7am - 6pm

Wednesday-Thursday 10am - 4pm

SILVER SPRINGS

1290 Lahontan St. 775-577-9161

Wednesday & Thursday

8am - 10am (60+ only) Wednesday - Friday

10am - 4pm

YERINGTON

502 W. Bridge St. 775-344-8109

Wednesday & Thursday

9am - 4pm

Naloxone Kits: Healthy Communities food pantries in Dayton, Silver Springs and Yerington have a stock of Naloxone kits. SAMHSA notes that 'Naloxone is designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. It is an opioid antagonist meaning that it binds to opioid receptors and can reverse and block the effects of other opioids, such as heroin, morphine, and oxycodone. Administered when a patient is showing signs of opioid overdose, naloxone is a temporary treatment and its effects do not last long. Therefore, it is critical to obtain medical intervention as soon as possible after administering/receiving naloxone.'







This publication was supported in whole or in part by the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, CDPHP, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) through State General Funds, and SAP Block and Partnership for Success federal grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. DHHS, CDPHP, SAMHSA, or the State of Nevada.