

2-1-1 CONNECT!

Nevada 2-1-1 Quarterly Newsletter

August 2017

Bully Busters 702

As more people gravitate toward the use of social media, online “bullying” has risen to new heights. Seniors, students, gay, straight, white, black, Asian, Hispanic, boys, girls; everyone from all walks of life can be subject to these sometimes life-threatening social media posts. However, there is one person who has made it his life mission to eradicate Bullying. His name is Keith Bowen, aka “Big Keith!”

Early in his life, Keith experienced a tragic loss of a friend who committed suicide as a result of bullying. Big Keith knew it was his mission to change the world. He vowed this would never happen on his watch to another friend or acquaintance, no matter what he had to do. After a life in the entertainment industry, Big Keith remembered his promise and began developing what is now known as Bully Busters 702, whose mission is to eradicate bullying through knowledge, communication, involvement, empowerment, and support. Through joint efforts of students, teachers, and parents, we can raise awareness of the problem of bullying, and thereby facilitate a safer environment for all.

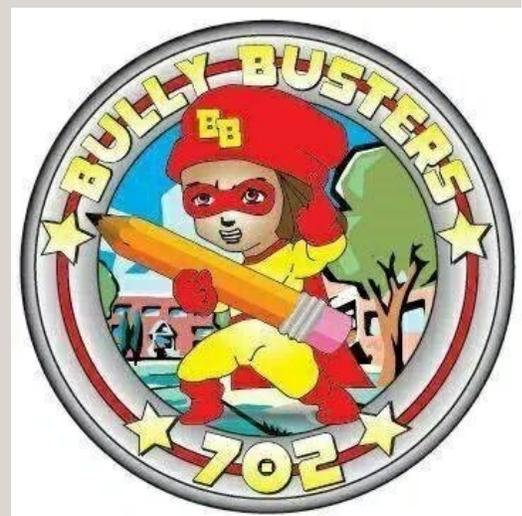
Bully Busters 702 has created ways for students to take action against bullying through a connection to an outside source. Bully Busters 702 has developed products that are proven effective, such as the app *Free Bully Busters 702 APP*, which can be downloaded to catch any bullying acts; the “Kids Have A Voice Radio Show;” the Bully Busters 702 custom shoe by Raddi; sock line by Happy Feet; 24 hour Bully Hotline for students; and an Action Figure. With the new addition of the “Crime Fighters” cartoon, Big Keith will reach a much broader audience, and make a greater impact worldwide.

With Bully Busters 702, there is a school curriculum in place that teaches students, teachers, and parents about the signs of bullying from both sides of the issue. Each lesson includes handouts and group projects to demonstrate team work, which is a very influential method in preventing bullying. As Big Keith toured schools, he noticed some of the underserved kids could not speak a kind word to another student. As demonstrated in one of his lessons, one student says, “Your outfit is cute,” which is clearly a compliment, but not a kind word. Big Keith introduces kind words - I AM statements - to build self-esteem and principles. The curriculum is based on grade levels and instruction involves fun interaction so students enjoy while learning.

Big Keith and his Bully Busters 702 have so much in store for the 2017-18 school year and beyond. Bully Busters even has a new office located at the Imagine Schools 100 Academy of Excellence in Las Vegas. For more information about Bully Busters 702, visit their website at www.bullybusters702.org.

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Big Keith and the Bully Busters 702 Radio Team

United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra

We all know reading is important. But just how important? It turns out that a child's third-grade reading proficiency, along with several other key factors, is a direct predictor of eventual high school graduation. In fact, children who don't read proficiently at the end of the third grade are four times less likely to graduate. This matters because Nevada still has one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the nation. Our high school dropouts qualify for only about 10% of new jobs coming to our state. It's likely that new companies will have to go outside of Nevada to find qualified applicants unless we can change our outcomes at the high school level.

Since 2015, United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra (UWNNS) has been tackling this early reading issue through the work of four funded partnerships, each addressing a key early literacy and learning component. In much the same way that a child's reading proficiency at the third grade can indicate likelihood of high school graduation, a child's kindergarten readiness can indicate likelihood of reading by third grade. Therefore, opportunities exist to work with children in the earliest stages to increase their odds for reading success and eventual high school graduation.

UWNNS works through four, multi-agency partnerships, which extend early literacy services across the thirteen counties in northern Nevada. In addition to comprehensive programs around this issue, each of the four lead partners provides critical summer learning and reading programs. The lead partners are Sierra Nevada Journeys, Northern Nevada Literacy Council, Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows, and Wells Family Resource Center.

In addition to working with these partnerships on the early reading issue, UWNNS is spearheading a community-wide 'Community Solutions Action Plan' process involving many multi-sector community organizations. This is a collaborative effort by foundations, nonprofit partners, business leaders, and government agencies to ensure that more children succeed in school, beginning with early literacy. The plan is expected to be unveiled in fall 2017. Beyond the roll out of this important plan, UWNNS is proud to be celebrating its 75th anniversary in northern Nevada!

More information is available at www.uwnns.org.

- Provided by Kelsey Piechocki, Senior Vice President



A dad reading with his son as part of the Family Reading Program

Be Wise and Immunize

As back to school efforts are gearing up throughout the Silver State, this is a good time to update immunizations for students, as well as adults. Vaccines are one of the greatest public health successes in the 20th Century. It is important to remember that the viruses and bacteria that cause vaccine-preventable diseases still exist. Also, because world travel has become a very popular part of summer vacations and even a driving economic engine for growing businesses, it is very easy for some diseases to be brought back to the United States. When this happens, it can put those persons who have not been vaccinated at serious risk.

The State of Nevada is committed to keeping children healthy and in class. This is a benefit to all residents of the Silver State. To ensure our students at every grade level, including at colleges and universities, are able to stay in school and not miss due to preventable illnesses, Nevada law requires immunizations for all students.

A child enrolling in seventh (7th) grade in a Nevada public or private school after June 30th, 2017 must receive an immunization against *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningitis) in the form of a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4). The child must receive at least one dose of MCV4 on or after age 10. This new requirement does not apply to students enrolled in a Nevada public or private school before July 1st, 2009. A student enrolled as a freshman at a Nevada university, who is less than 23 years of age upon enrollment, may not attend the university after September 1, 2017 without proof of immunity to *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningitis). Vaccination with at least one dose of a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) on or after age 16 years will satisfy this requirement.

For more information about state immunization requirements, shot records, and some locations to receive vaccinations outside of your primary care provider, visit Immunize Nevada's website at www.immunizenevada.org, or call (775) 624-7117.

Back to School Time

It seems as though school just ended, and here we are again preparing our children to return to the classroom. For many, preparing children for back to school can be a financial strain. However, there are resources available that can help ease some of the back to school stress. Free school supplies give your family budget a much-needed break and get the school year started off right. Do a little homework to find out how you can get everything your kids need, from pencils to backpacks, at no charge and regardless of your family's income. Start with these 8 ways to get free school supplies for your students

Charitable Organizations

Helping people is the reason many organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, United Way, and The Salvation Army exist. These nonprofits have distributed millions of dollars worth of free school supplies to children and are typically needs-based organizations. Organizations such as these often team up to throw a back-to-school festival where kids can get backpacks stuffed with free school supplies. Call the organizations close to you to see if they are holding a free school supply event. Even if they're not, they still may be able to help fulfill your child's school supply list from their local warehouses.

Local Media

Print and broadcast media are the pulse of your community. Newspapers, radio, TV stations, and city magazines know exactly when and where you can get free school supplies to help cut your back-to-school spending. Companies holding free school supply giveaways notify these media outlets well in advance so they can get news coverage. What this means is your child can start loving school before it even starts with a backpack stuffed full of school supplies. And you don't have to pay for any of it! These types of events are usually held for everyone in your community and don't require income-based qualifications. It's simply a giveaway for anyone who shows up to the event. Call media outlets in your area and ask for the assignment editor or education reporter, who should have any school supply-related event information at their fingertips. That particular media outlet may also be holding its own free school supply promotion.

School District

School supply lists are long and the items on them can be pricey. Your school administrators know this. Make your local school district aware of your situation. You may have to fill out a couple of forms to prove you don't have the resources to purchase all of the school supplies on the list. But if you're approved, your child will be able to get everything he or she needs to go back to school prepared.

Backpack Programs

Backpack programs help kids get all of their school supplies for the year absolutely free. Kids get new backpacks stuffed with school supplies. Most backpack programs are offered to children of low-income households or those who are going through extenuating circumstances.

Churches

Churches in your area usually work together to help kids get free school supplies. Call any church and tell them your needs. Many churches organize school supply drives during back-to-school time so they can have supplies on hand for children who need them. If the church isn't participating, the church secretary should be able to put you in touch with a church that can help.

Chamber of Commerce

Your local chamber of commerce may be throwing a back-to-school event where free school supplies will be handed out. Check your chamber of commerce's website events calendar and follow up with a call to verify the dates and times. If your community isn't holding an official event, they may be able to put you in touch with businesses who've expressed interest in giving away school supplies to local children.

Sale Papers

Keep a close eye on sale papers. In the weeks and days leading up to the first day of school, you'll often find items that are free after a rebate. Sometimes those rebates are instant, so you won't have to pay for your child's school supplies up front and then have to wait on a check to arrive in the mail. Notebooks, paper, pens, and even backpacks can be free of charge on the spot as you finish up your back-to-school shopping.

School Supply Swap

Your kids probably didn't use all of their school supplies from this past school year. But now they're moving on to a new grade and those school supplies may not be on this year's list. Host a school supply swap. Some schools will allow you to hold a school supply swap in a classroom or at least put up a flyer during registration to advertise your swap. The rules are simple and you set them. Bring your new or gently used school supplies and swap them for something else. You can even include school uniforms or other school-appropriate attire in your event so that kids can swap clothing for free.

Nevada 2-1-1 will post some of the back-to-school events going on throughout the state on our website. Check our website periodically, as well as our Facebook and Twitter pages, during the month of August for an event near you!

<https://www.thespruce.com/get-free-school-supplies-for-kids-3129500>

Churchill County Social Services

One of Nevada's little known jewels is Churchill County. While it is widely known to be an agricultural area, it is greatly respected as home of the Naval Air Station Fallon. However, it is the work of the Churchill County Social Services Department (CCSS) that makes the community a great place to live, work, and grow.

The goal of CCSS is to facilitate the self-sufficiency of program recipients. There are emergency, temporary assistance programs that provide for the health and welfare of eligible county residents. With the assistance of CCSS and community partners, individuals and families have opportunities to develop, grow, and prosper as valued and respected residents of the community.

One of the ways the community remains active in the development of solutions to meet the growing needs of its residents is through the Community Partnership/Resource Committee (Committee). The Committee was established in February 2012 as an informal round table discussion group to meet quarterly and address the needs of the community by identifying duplications in services being provided, as well as identify gaps in necessary services. Quarterly meetings are held at the Fallon Convention Center located at 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV. Members gather for lunch, share updates on what is new within their organizations, and presentations on pertinent topics to all organizations that are shared.



Stock photo from the Fallon Air Show

The goal of the round table type discussion is to have a meeting which would allow us to come together as a community to better define the role each organization plays in the community, what services each organization provides to the community, and how to best access those services. These discussions will allow us to work together, through interaction and dialogue, to develop an understanding of what role each organization plays in the community and allow all of us to work together to provide services, fill gaps, and use our resources wisely.

To learn more about the services provided by CCSS and the many partners that help sustain the community, please visit the Churchill County website at <http://nv-churchillcounty.civicplus.com>.

- Contributor: Holly Meader, CCSS Coordinator

Financial Guidance Center Corner

Did you know that you could get a no-interest loan with the Financial Guidance Center (FGC)? FGC can provide individuals with a loan of up to \$600 through its Lending Circles program. Lending Circles can open the door to your future and help improve your credit score at the same time. For more information, please call 1.800.451.4505, or visit us on line at www.FinancialGuidanceCenter.org.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information, referrals, or to provide a comment.

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Connect with us on social media



Nevada211



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*Please feel free to forward to those within your email distribution list.



Almost daily at the 2-1-1 Call Center here in Las Vegas, people will call back and offer praise about the assistance they received.

Raquel has been dubbed "The Kudos Queen" by the 2-1-1 Call Specialist Team because she has been the frequent subject of many of these callbacks. In the world of customer service, Raquel checks all of the boxes: courteous, friendly, knowledgeable, patient, and willing to go the extra mile to ensure all of the caller's needs are met the first time. We are grateful she is on our team.

- Kudos