

Anti-smoke drive aimed at expectant mothers

"Because you love your baby, there's never been a better time to quit," is the slogan that the American Lung Association of Southeastern Michigan (ALASEM) is using to launch its new Smoking and Pregnancy campaign.

The educational campaign seeks to inform pregnant women of the dangers smoking can hold for their unborn child.

"Close to one-third of the 141,000 Michigan women who get pregnant each year are smokers," said Warren A. Wood Jr., M.D., of William Beaumont Hospital's obstetrics department.

"But nearly half the women in a national survey did not know how smoking affects the outcome of pregnancy."

THE LUNG Association plans to see that pregnant women are warned of tobacco's hazards through an information package to be distributed to physicians, nurses and childbirth instructors for use in counseling young mothers.

The packet includes a handbook, charts and color posters, and a slide-tape presentation is also available.

More than 500 health care professionals in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties have received the packets, thanks to a grant from Comerica Inc.

Wood said that ALASEM created the package because only 25 percent of smokers in a recent survey

said that they had received advice from a physician about quitting cigarettes.

Another survey of nurses showed that 83 percent would be willing to counsel patients to quit the habit if they knew the proper approach.

FOR PREGNANT women who want to quit smoking, ALASEM will offer a smoking withdrawal program 2-5 p.m. Sunday, March 6 at the Royal Oak campus of Oakland Community College.

Entitled "Cigarette Send-Off for Moms-To-Be," the program will include a take-home kit containing a booklet, questions and answers about smoking, and other information.

Tickets, priced at \$15 for expectant mothers and \$25 for couples, are available through ALASEM by calling 963-3029.

STUDIES SHOW that expectant mothers who smoke significantly increase the risk of miscarriage, stillbirth and premature births, and infant respiratory distress syndrome.

Smokers also risk delivering babies with low birth weights as well as losing their babies during the first month of life.

Children of smokers also tend to be smaller and shorter and have more respiratory ailments. They also tend to score lower on math and verbal tests than children of non-smokers.

Old Dekes visit

Former President Gerald R. Ford (center) took time out last week to meet with fraternity brothers from Delta Kappa Epsilon in Ann Arbor. David K. Eslick Jr. (left), a Bloomfield Hills attorney, and Mark B. Duffield (right) of Troy, a retired Aetna executive, gave the 1935 U-M football captain a gift for the Gerald R. Ford Foundation. The foundation is the research arm of the Ford Library in Ann Arbor. Eslick is president, and Duffield a trustee, of the Rampant Lion Foundation — the main charitable vehicle of the fraternity's alumni. Ford and former President Jimmy Carter were in Ann Arbor for a conference for the newly-formed Domestic Policy Association.



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