



Stansbury High School students walk through the main hall passed a Guiding Good Choices poster before school. The Guiding Good Choices program, a parenting class, has seen enrollment increase by 50 percent in the last year.

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Parenting workshop sees enrollment jump

After collaborating with local schools and civic groups, a Tooele City-sponsored parenting class has seen enrollment increase by nearly 50 percent.

The free parenting workshop Guiding Good Choices, which is hosted by Tooele City through the Communities that Care youth development program, had 46 residents enroll in 2014, up from 31 in 2013.

Heidi Peterson, director of Communities that Care, attributed the increase to a recent collaborative effort with the Tooele Valley Rotary Club. The club helped to promote Guiding Good Choices and assisted in the creation of a new promotional brochure and a commercial that played during the summer months at the Motor Vu in Erda.

The Rotary club also assisted with an in-school promotion that involved a competition across local schools to see which would have the most parents enroll in Guiding Good Choices. The top enrolling schools were West Elementary, East Elementary and Tooele Junior High.

Guiding Good Choices is a five-week parenting class comprised of a series of weekly interactive workshops that focus on developing communication and parenting skills. Parents, in turn, can then teach their children to manage pressure from their peers and make good choices in life.

Each session focuses on a different theme, beginning with a look at the challenges facing today's youth, establishing rules and expectations, dealing with peer pressure, family communication and defining children's roles in the family.

Tooele City Mayor Patrick Dunlavy has said the program is akin to the manual parents didn't get when they brought their kids home from the hospital.

The workshop is free and open to parents with children ages 9-17 years old. Children are invited to attend some workshops. Each workshop is about two hours long.

The next five-week session begins on Feb. 19 at City Hall. Workshops will take place on Thursday evenings. Persons interested in enrolling may call 435-843-2185 or send email to familyworkshops@tooelecity.org.



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