



DC TOBACCO FREE HOLY GROUNDS INITIATIVE

www.DCTFFholygrounds.org

“He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.” Psalms 107:20

WHO WE ARE—***Together We Can Make a Difference***

The DC Tobacco Free Holy Grounds (DCTFHG) initiative is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approved “Best Practices” initiative designed to educate the community about healthy living through community churches and church groups. DCTFHG aims to educate and bring awareness of the risks to health caused by smoking while promoting tobacco prevention strategies. Ultimately, the goal of this initiative is to establish a covenant with the faith communities in the District of Columbia to ensure that the stronghold of the drug nicotine can be overcome. DCTFHG is funded by a grant from the DC Tobacco Free Families Campaign, a partnership of the American Lung Association of DC, the American Cancer Society and the DC Department of Health. All services, including nicotine patches and lozenges and quitline counseling, are free to DC residents and organizations.

WHAT WE DO—***Improving Lives, One Family at a Time***

The DCTFHG initiative will provide resources and educational information to DC churches and faith leaders on how to:

- Empower the community to overcome health disparities
- Help community members quit smoking
- Maintain tobacco free homes for our children

The DCTFHG initiative can provide technical assistance and training for other faith based organizations to assist in reducing the burden of tobacco addiction in our communities.

WHY FAITH BASED PARTNERSHIPS—***Strength in Numbers***

DCTFHG aims to build a network of faith-based groups, to help change the way our community views tobacco use—from acceptable to unacceptable—and to provide a culture in which our children grow up without the tragedy of tobacco addiction in their lives. Tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the country. DC has some of the most alarming statistics related to tobacco use than any other state. In particular, African American males living in the District have one of the worst life expectancies in the country, resembling that of a third world country. *On average, District African American males live to the age of 57.5 years, 20 years less than the national average, and have high smoking rates.* Forty thousand (40,000) District children are exposed to secondhand smoke everyday. As faith based leaders, we can reach and give voice to diverse communities to promote tobacco use prevention to improve the health of our church community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO—**Be a Part of the Solution**

As a faith based partner, your role is vital to the campaign's success. You serve a particular group of individuals who trust and rely on you for information.

By signing on with DCTFHG, you will become a key player in relaying the educational messages and resources. Please select below the activities and information you would like to participate in or receive. (Please sign form and fax to **301-350-1715**.)

- Receive information on DCTFHG which endorses a tobacco free policy in and around church facilities
- Join DCTFHG
- Display of print materials and easily visible DCTFHG signs to promote community awareness
- Promote the quitline through faith-based communications channels, e.g., newsletters, meetings, and outreach activities
- Incorporate the critically acclaimed **Not in Mama's Kitchen**, a *CDC Best Practices* educational program about how children and other loved ones are harmed by secondhand smoke exposure in the home
- Offer Freedom From Smoking (FFS) programs for community members

Church Name: _____

Faith Based Leaders Name _____

Phone: _____

Ward Served: _____

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

For further information, you may contact Mrs. Wallace at **202-396-3743**, or via email BWallacesr3@msn.com. The Fax number is **301-350-1715**.

*United in Building Partnerships, Empowering Communities,
Healing Families, Together*
www.dctffholygrounds.org

