

## **“Would The World Listen”**

The Lackawanna County Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse is participating in the **6<sup>th</sup> annual International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Day (FASD)** on Friday, **September 9, 2005** by distributing materials to ob-gyn, and pediatric doctors' offices along with elementary school guidance counselors and teachers to raise awareness within our community.

FASD Day originated with three individuals; they were not lobbyists or public relations consultants. They were parents raising fetal alcohol children. They started a worldwide grassroots movement organized through e-mail lists and the World Wide Web. The question was, “What if a world full of fetal alcohol parents all got together on the ninth hour, or the ninth day of the ninth month of the year and asked the world to remember that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should not drink alcohol?” They asked, **“Would the world listen?”**

According to the national proclamation designating FASD, women need to be educated that all of the fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are completely preventable by choosing not to drink during pregnancy. They must know that consumption of alcohol during pregnancy is the single largest contributor to mental retardation, learning disabilities and birth defects. Alarminglly the rate of children born with FASD is estimated to be 1 out of every 100 live births. FASD has devastating effects on families, communities and our society at large; costs are estimated yearly to be in the billions of dollars to provided appropriate services to these children and their families affected by FASD.

For further information and materials contact Candice Farrell at the Lackawanna County Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse located at 135 Jefferson Ave. Scranton, Pa. at 570-963-6820. Websites with information about this heart wrenching disorder that affects millions of children each year include, [fasday.com](http://fasday.com), [nofas.org](http://nofas.org), [fascenter.samhsa.gov/](http://fascenter.samhsa.gov/), and [niaa.nih.gov](http://niaa.nih.gov).

The Lackawanna County Commissioners will proclaim the month of **September, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Month** at the next commissioners meeting.

The message is simple – **ALCOHOL AND PREGNANCY DO NOT MIX. NO ALCOHOL DURING 9 MONTHS OF PREGNANCY, PERIOD.**