Lakeview Area News
Thursday, January 28, 2016

110 Attend I/M FAN Kick-Off Event!

Submitted by Shirley Pool

On Thursday, January 21 over 110 people attended the Ionia /Montcalm Families Against Narcotics (I/M FAN) Kick-off event held at the First Congregational Church in Greenville. The event was opened by Judge Kreeger, who is chairperson of I/M FAN. Judge Kreeger told the crowd that I/M FAN was formed because of the epidemic in opioid abuse we are seeing in Ionia and Montcalm counties. The same story is being repeated across the nation, as well. "It is going to take the community to address this issue", stated Kreeger. She continued stating, "The purpose of I/M FAN is to 1) Raise awareness of the dangers of prescription narcotics, 2) Support those affected by narcotic addiction, and 3) Erase the stigma of addiction."

I/M FAN has five committees looking at different aspects of narcotic addiction and its aftermath: The Committee on Families is to educate and support the family members who have a loved one struggling with addiction. A Grief and Loss committee will be offering support to our friends who have lost a loved one to this disease. There is Jail Committee to work with the local jails in providing support services for those who have been arrested. The Medical Committee will approach the addiction problem from a prescribers' point of view. And, the Committee on Youth Education will offer presentations to groups of youth in schools, churches, or other venues.

After each of the Advisory Board members were introduced, the I/M FAN members listened to what brought people to the meeting. By listening to concerns from people and surveys that were completed by those attending, I/M FAN will set a schedule of events for the upcoming year. Community forums will be held monthly, on the third Thursday of each month. All who are interested are welcome to attend. For more information call 616-527-5341 or 989-831-4591, or email at JohnKroneck@Cherry-Health.com.