

WHO IS MUSTARD SEED?

Mustard Seed is a youth-based project for 10-20 year olds who use health information and spiritual guidance to enlighten their faith communities with compassion, understanding, and truth about HIV/AIDS.

WHAT DOES MUSTARD SEED DO?

Mustard Seed looks at HIV/AIDS not as a moral issue, but as a health crisis. We provide youth with accurate information about HIV/AIDS, spiritual and social skills to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS, and tools to promote concern, compassion, and social awareness within their church community.

Education. Youth learn factual information about HIV/AIDS and dispel myths, develop skills in HIV prevention with spiritual guidance, and teach their congregations the truth about HIV/AIDS.

Youth summits. In a fun and open learning environment, youth learn accurate HIV/AIDS information, participate in skill-building activities, and develop HIV/AIDS education activities for their faith community.

Activities. Youth have performed interpretive dances for their congregations, developed youth pastoral guidebooks, created sermons for youth pastors, and developed skits performed at World AIDS Day events.

Sow another seed. Mustard Seed youth who have nurtured the project within their own church assist other faith communities who want to begin their own Mustard Seed project. They can facilitate trainings, assist with activity development, and provide advice and assistance from their own experiences.

WHY THE MUSTARD SEED APPROACH?

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." - Hosea 4:6

There are now over 4,000 people in the Sacramento region living with HIV and AIDS. Issues surrounding HIV/AIDS are often considered "taboo" subjects and are rarely addressed in our congregations; however, people of all faiths participate in behaviors every day that cause them to contract the virus. Because many people do not know how to protect themselves and their families, and because congregations are uncertain of how to respond to this crisis, much-needed support or guidance from their church is often difficult to find. Mustard Seed is a creative, powerful way to acknowledge HIV/AIDS in our community, be realistic about its presence in our own lives, and inspire congregations to respond to the epidemic in a Christian manner.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To get involved with the Mustard Seed Project or for more information, please call Minister Dennis Rhodes at (916) 541-9577 or itrusthimj@sbcglobal.net