



TAG in Action: Gilda's Club Seattle

As part of its national call to action, **Adolescent Health, Think, Act, GrowSM (TAG)**, the Office of Adolescent Health, in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service has identified a number of successful strategies for improving adolescent health throughout the country.



The Goal

Gilda's Club Seattle works with high schools to provide support and information to teens about cancer, and to ensure that no young person has to face cancer alone.

The Game Plan

Cancer affects the lives of many adolescents, whether they are diagnosed with cancer themselves or one of their friends or family members has cancer. Gilda's Club Seattle identified a gap in outreach to teens about cancer—including cancer prevention and support when friends or family members have been diagnosed with cancer—and has provided targeted outreach and educational information to teens in Washington State since 2005.

The organization notes that "More than 73 percent of teens have been touched by cancer yet teens are often an overlooked audience, especially regarding cancer risk factors, prevention and dealing with the social and emotional needs brought about by a cancer diagnosis."

Gilda's Club Seattle is reaching teens where they are already learning—in their high schools. The organization's *Cancer Education for Teens* (CET) program has been delivered in-person to more than 36,000 teens in 66 Seattle and Puget Sound area high schools. Gilda's Club Seattle also empowers teens to share their thoughts and perspectives through its annual "It's Always Something" Teen Writing Contest. This special project provides a venue for teens in 9th through 12th grades in Washington State and Alaska to give voice to their own experiences with cancer, either their own diagnosis or that of a loved one.

The Winning Plays

Beginning in 2015, Gilda's Club Seattle began offering an online version of CET that provides an e-learning approach to help teens learn about cancer prevention, risk factors, and how to support people with cancer. With this online version of the training, which includes videos and interactive components, Gilda's Club Seattle empowers high schools to provide this important educational opportunity to teens wherever they are.

Learn More

Gilda's Club Seattle
<http://www.gildasclubseattle.org>

